Sports in China

SPORTS
IN CHINA

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Foreword

PROMOTE physical culture and build up the people's health. This is the direction pointed out by Chairman Mao Tsetung, the great leader of the Chinese people, for the new China's physical culture and sports.

Thanks to Chairman Mao's concern and to the leadership and promotion by the Chinese Communist Party and People's Government, physical culture and sports have kept pace with the country's development in the political, economic and cultural spheres since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Sports are now a major factor in improving the working people's health, and occupy an important place in the people's new, rich cultural life.

Mass sports are featured throughout China's cities and countryside. Various ball games, swimming, callisthenics, running and Chinese boxing are popular among workers, peasants, students, People's Liberation Army men and also office workers. In China's southern provinces, people swim in rivers, lakes and seas all the year round. Winter in northeastern China finds thousands of skating and skiing enthusiasts on the ice and snow. Horse racing, wrestling and archery are popular in areas where China's minority nationality people live. This mass participation in a wide range of sports has contributed to improving the people's physical fitness and to promoting industrial and agricultural production, giving the people added vigour to engage in the country's socialist revolution and socialist construction.

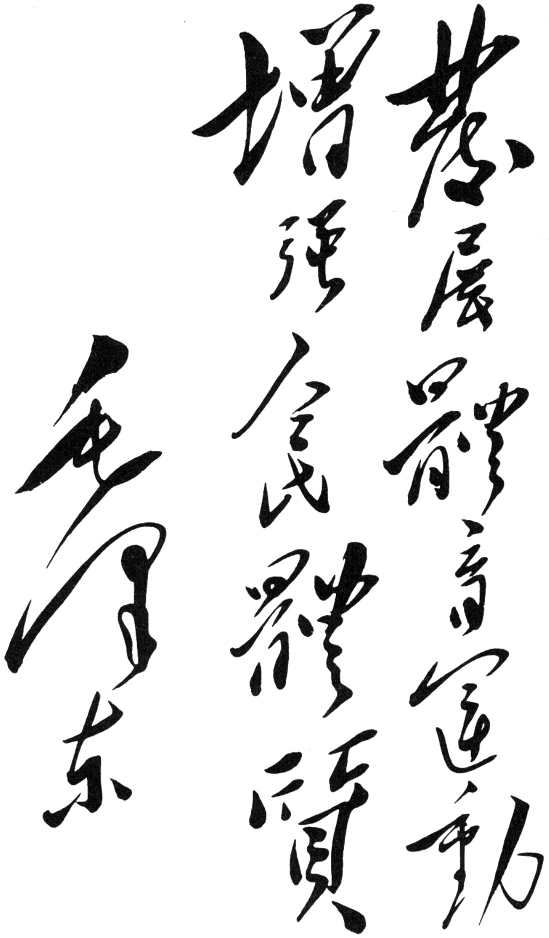
With millions of people now drawn into sports activities, a number of outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen have stepped forward. They have steadily improved their standards and achieved new results. Chinese athletes have set new world records in track and field events, swimming, weight-lifting, target shooting, archery and parachute jumping. Chinese mountaineers have scaled the world's highest peak — the Jolmo Lungma. Players from China have taken their place also in international contests in table tennis and badminton. And Chinese sportsmen will go on doing their share in furthering international sports.

"Friendship first, competition second" is the spirit of Chinese sportsmen in international tournaments. With this spirit they have promoted friendship and exchange of experience with sportsmen of other countries.

This pictorial album is an attempt at a brief review of China's contemporary physical culture and sports. It is hoped that it may give some idea of what the country is doing in this field.

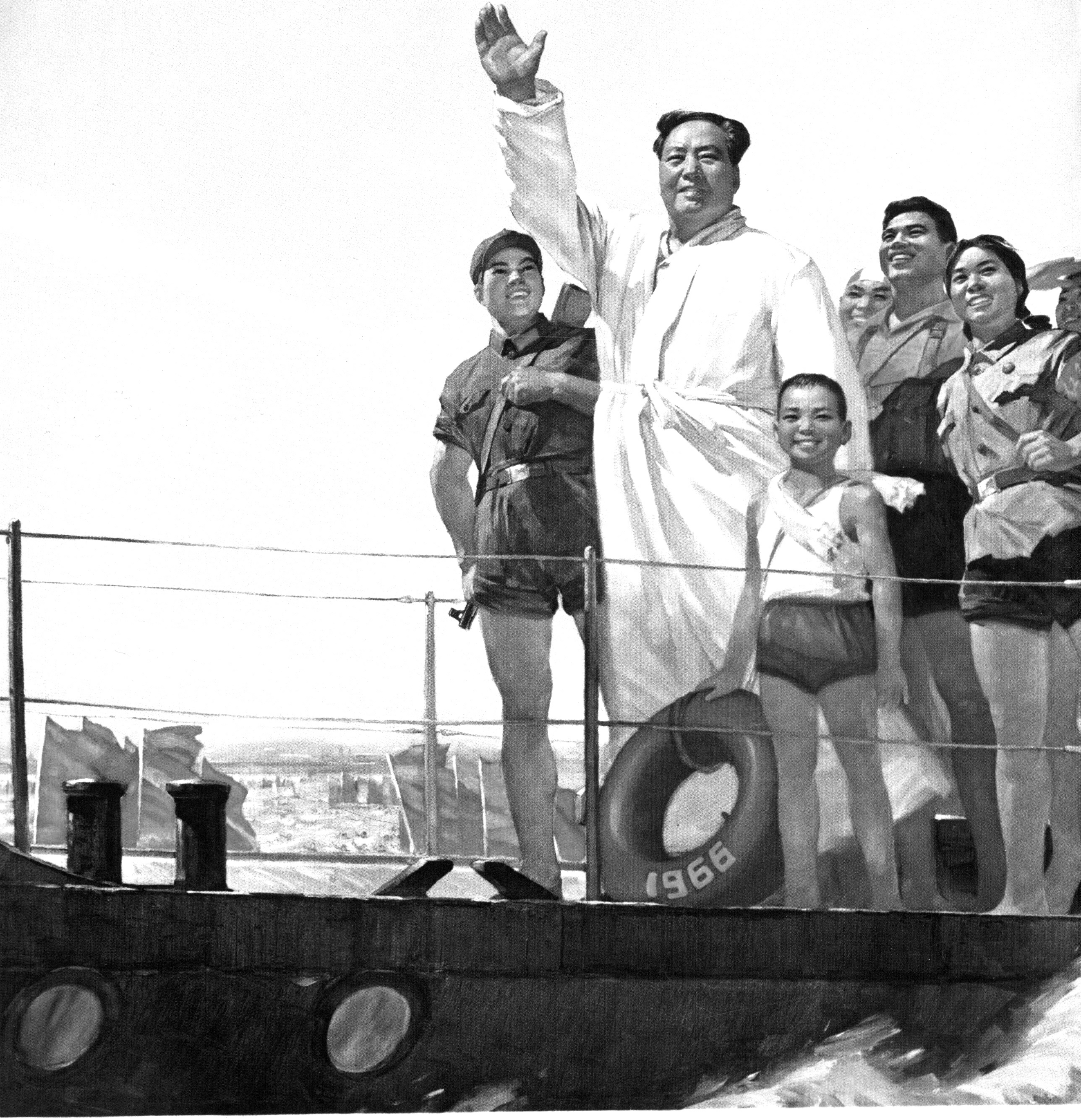
China is a developing country, and her physical culture and sports are likewise in a process of development.

Chairman Mao Tsetung, the great leader of the Chinese people.



發展體育運動
增強人民體質
毛泽东

Chairman Mao's inscription on June 10, 1952 for the All-China Sports Federation: **Promote physical culture and build up the people's health.**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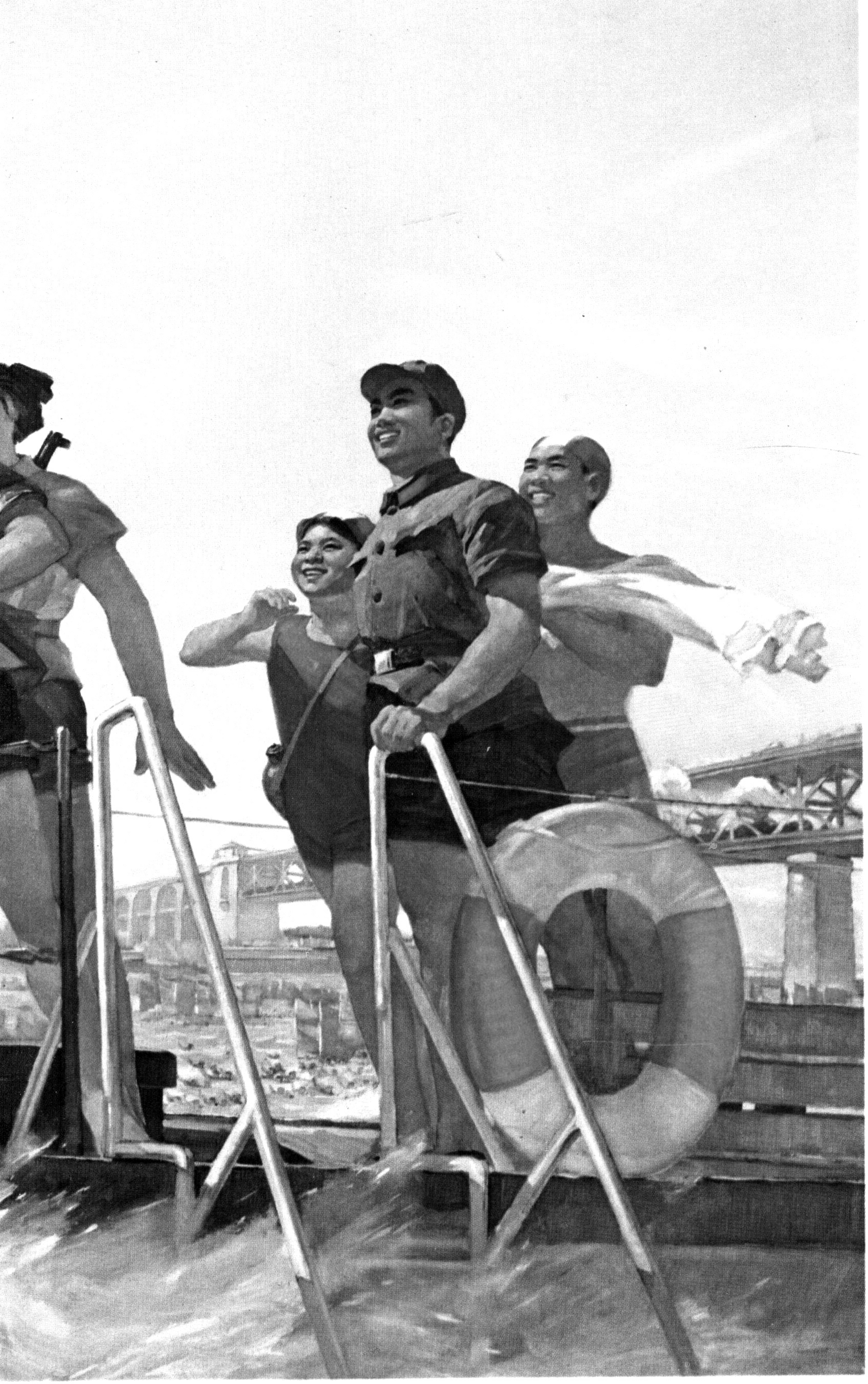

Advancing Against
Wind and Waves.
Oil painting
by Tang Hsiao-ho.

一九七二年全国五项
发展体育运动
增强人民体质
毛泽东

Chou En-lai, Chiang Ching, Yeh Chien-ying, Chang Chun-chiao, Yao Wen-yuan, Li Hsien-nien, Chi Teng-kuei, Li Teh-sheng, Wang Tung-hsing and other Party and state leaders were present at the presentation of awards to winners in the 1972 National Ball-Game Tournaments.

Many Chinese cities carry on the tradition of holding long-distance races at Spring Festival. Three thousand Peking residents took part in the 1973 round-the-city race.

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Children grow up healthy and strong in the new China. Physical training begins in kindergarten, where tiny tots join in such sports as tug-of-war.

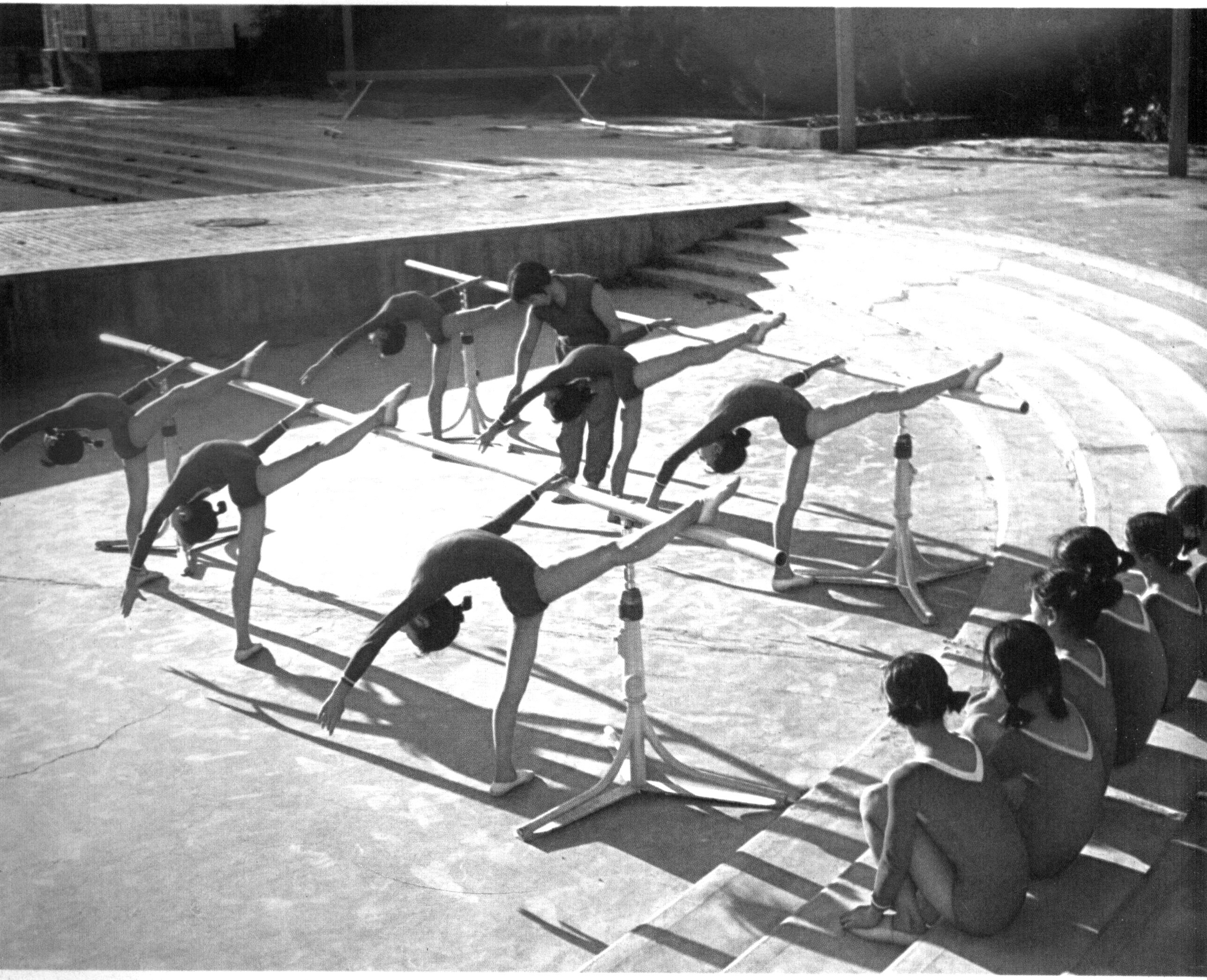
Already table tennis fans!

Swinging under the trees.

Throwing sand bags. “Let’s see who can throw it the farthest!”

Mini-soccer is a favoured after-school sport among primary and middle school boys in China.

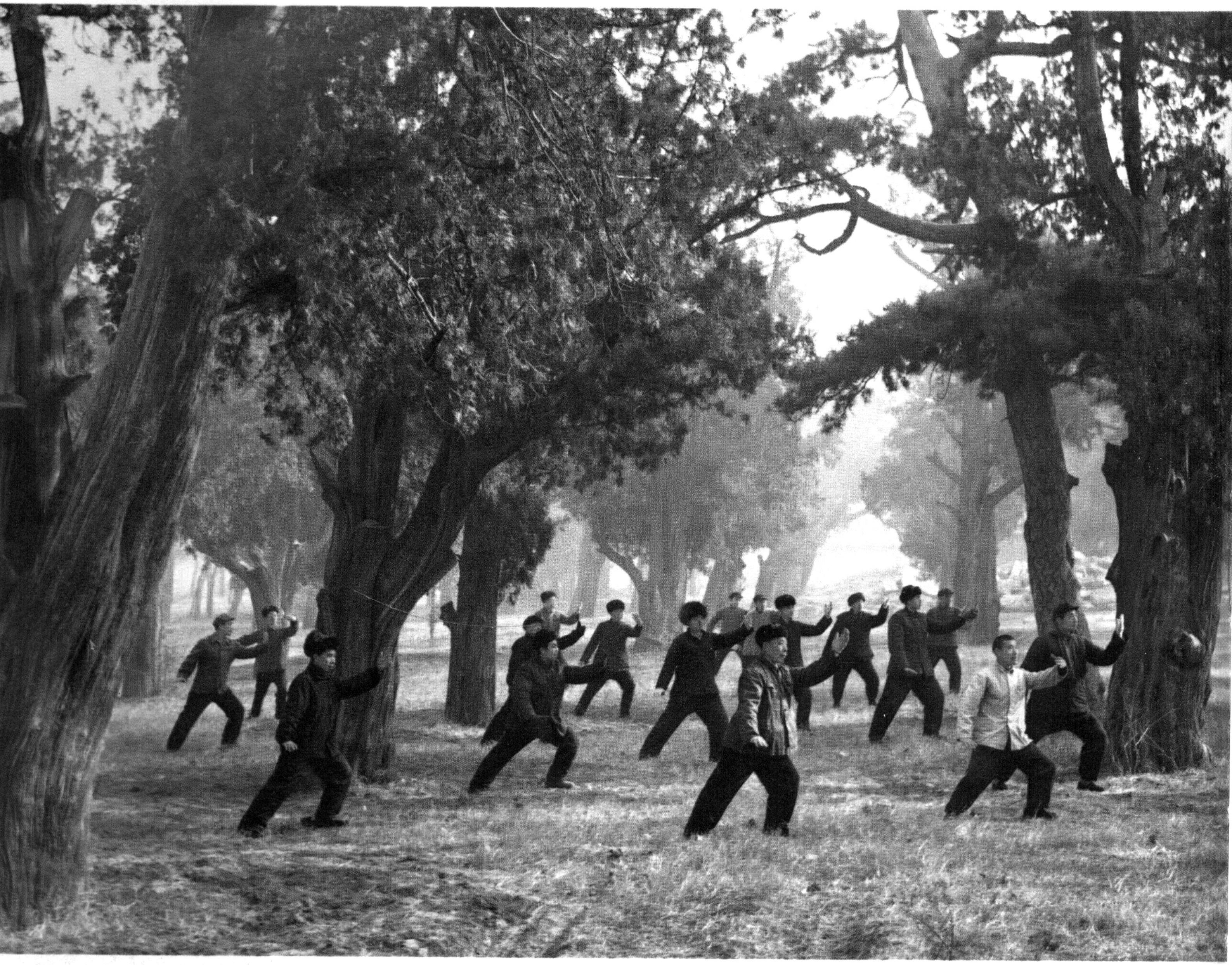
An early morning cross-country run by middle school students.



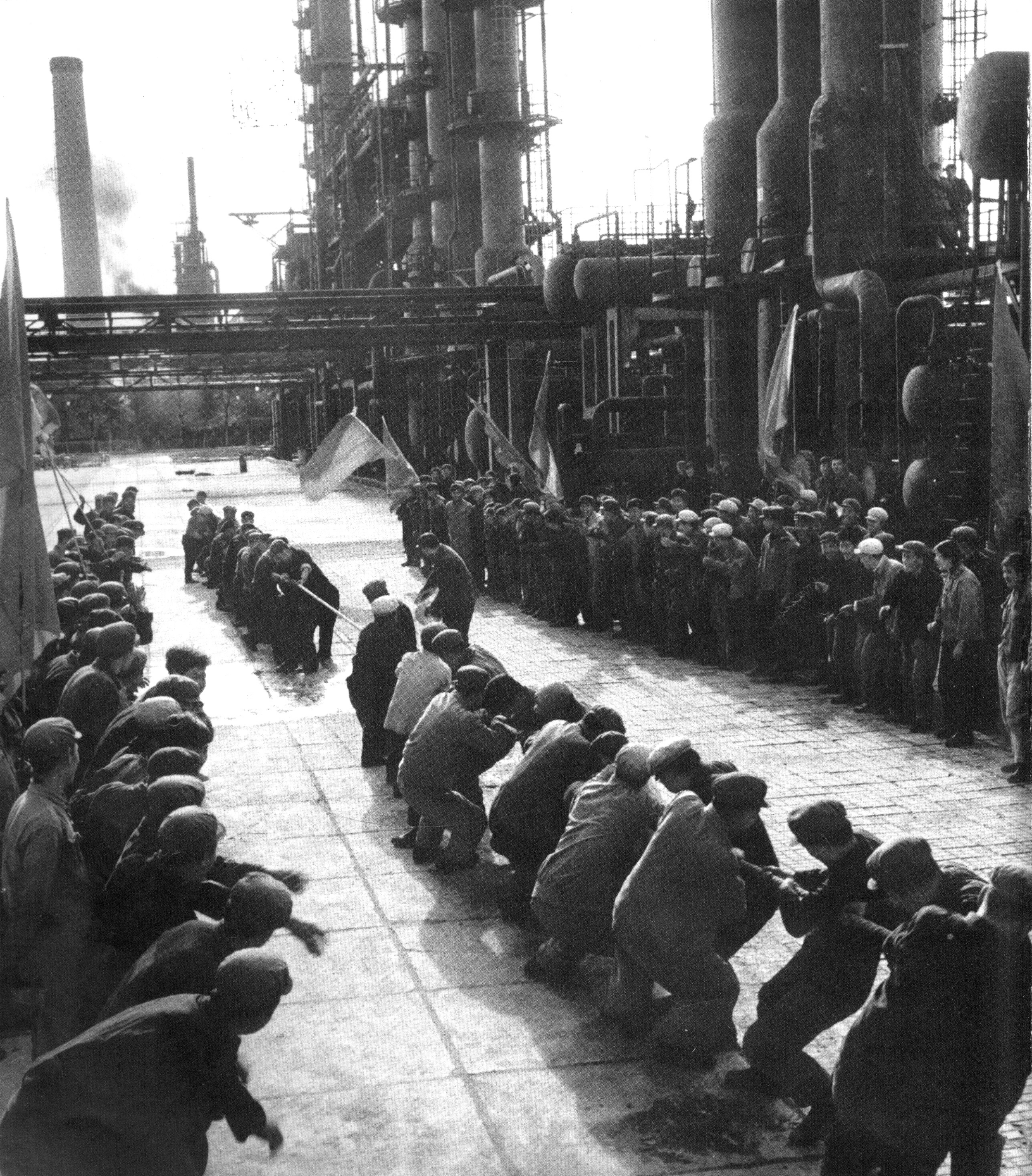
At a gymnastics class in Peking. Tens of thousands of children and young people get physical training in the spare-time sports schools which now function throughout the country.

Youngsters train in volleyball after school, Taishan, Kwangtung Province.

A typical early morning scene at Peking's Tien Tan Park (Temple of Heaven). *Tai chi chuan,* or shadow boxing, is a favourite exercise of old people.

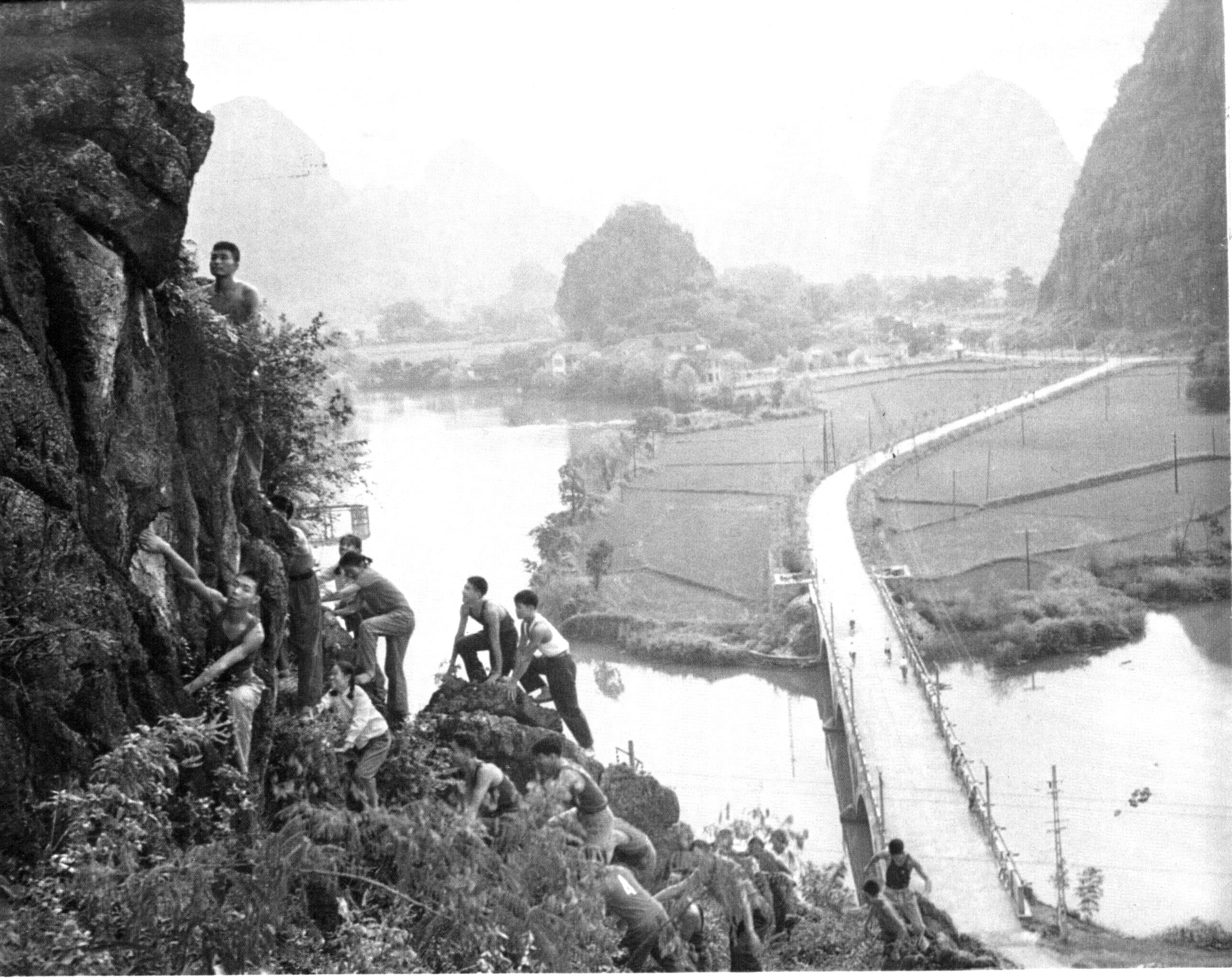


A veteran of *wu shu,* a composite Chinese combative sport, coaches a beginner.



Taching Oilfield workers try their strength in a tug-of-war. China's workers, peasants and soldiers are active in a wide range of sports activities, improving their health and enabling them to participate with greater energy in the socialist construction.

Workers at Kiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai do their setting-up exercises regularly.



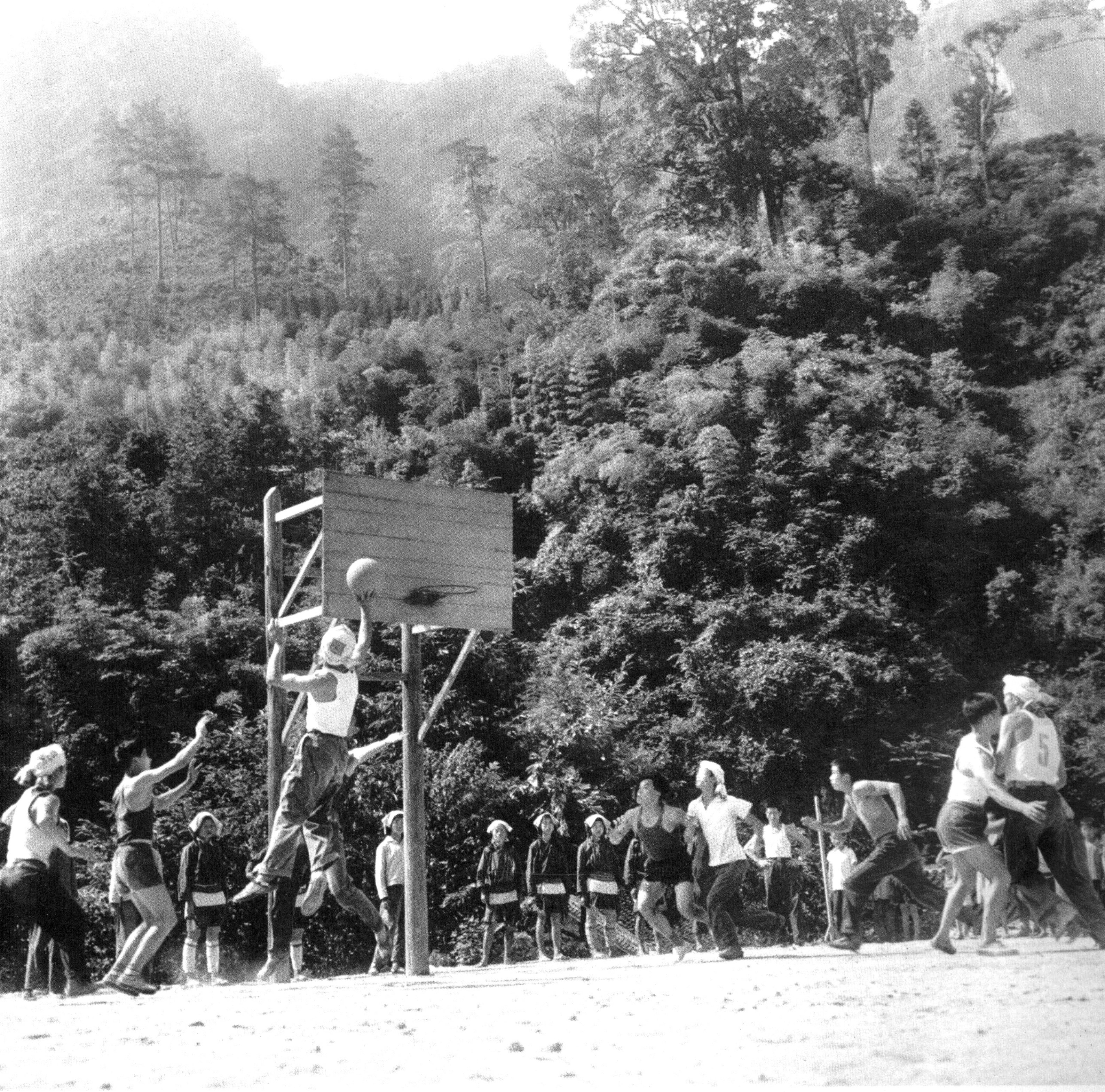
A climb in the hills is enjoyed by workers on their day off.

An off-shift activity of workers from the Kweilin Latex Factory in Kwangsi Province.

Combining sports with production. Commune members of Lengtsuitou Production Brigade in Hopei Province practise pole-climbing during a work break, using production equipment.

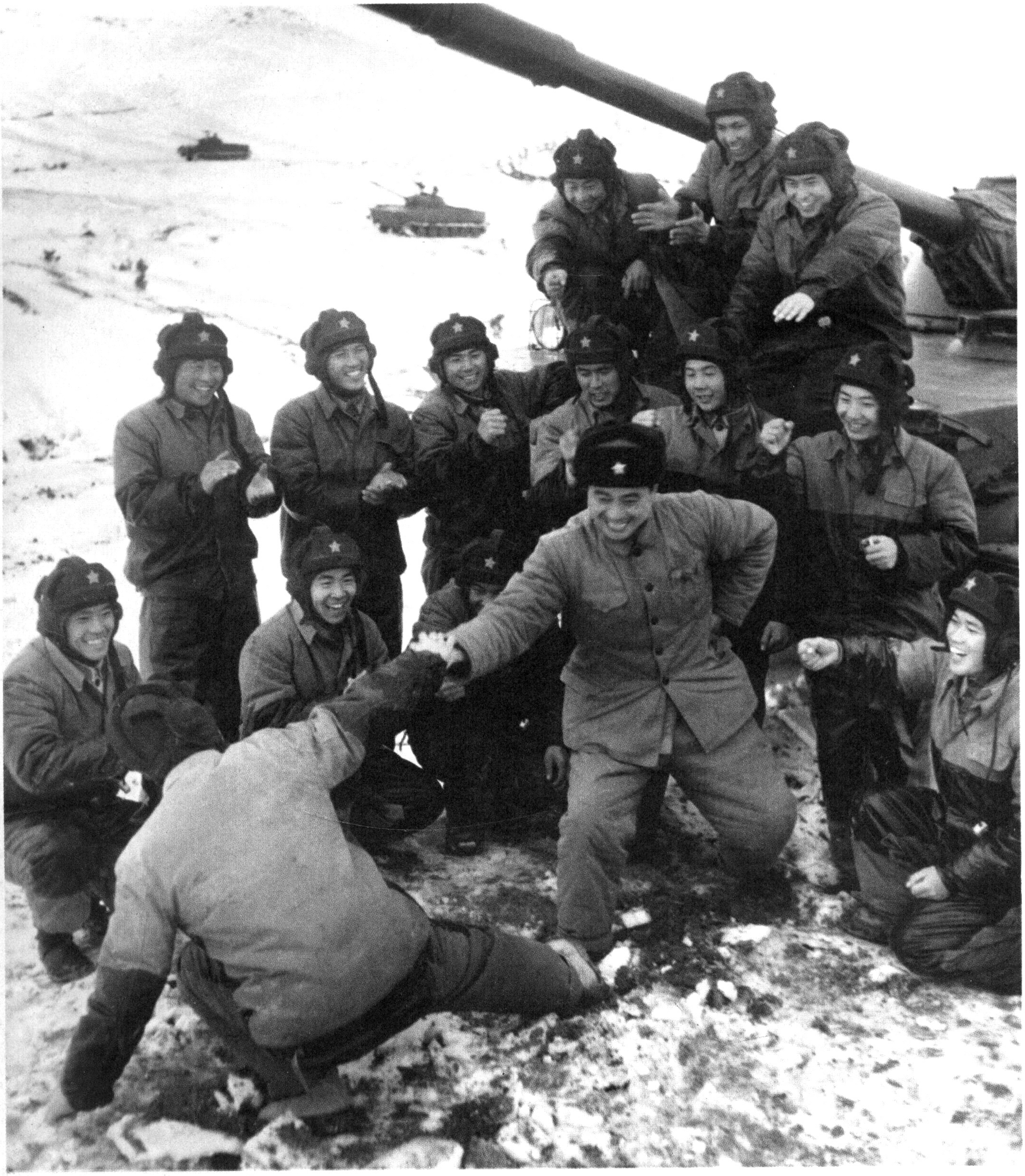
Swimming events involving many people are frequently held at Taojiao People's Commune, known as a "commune of swimmers," in Tungkuan County, Kwangtung Province.

Young people in the countryside practise crossing a "single-plank bridge."



Basketball game by peasants in a Miao nationality area in southwest China.

Officers and men get together for a "trial of strength" during a break in their exercises. Sports are very popular among the People's Liberation Army men.



After drill.

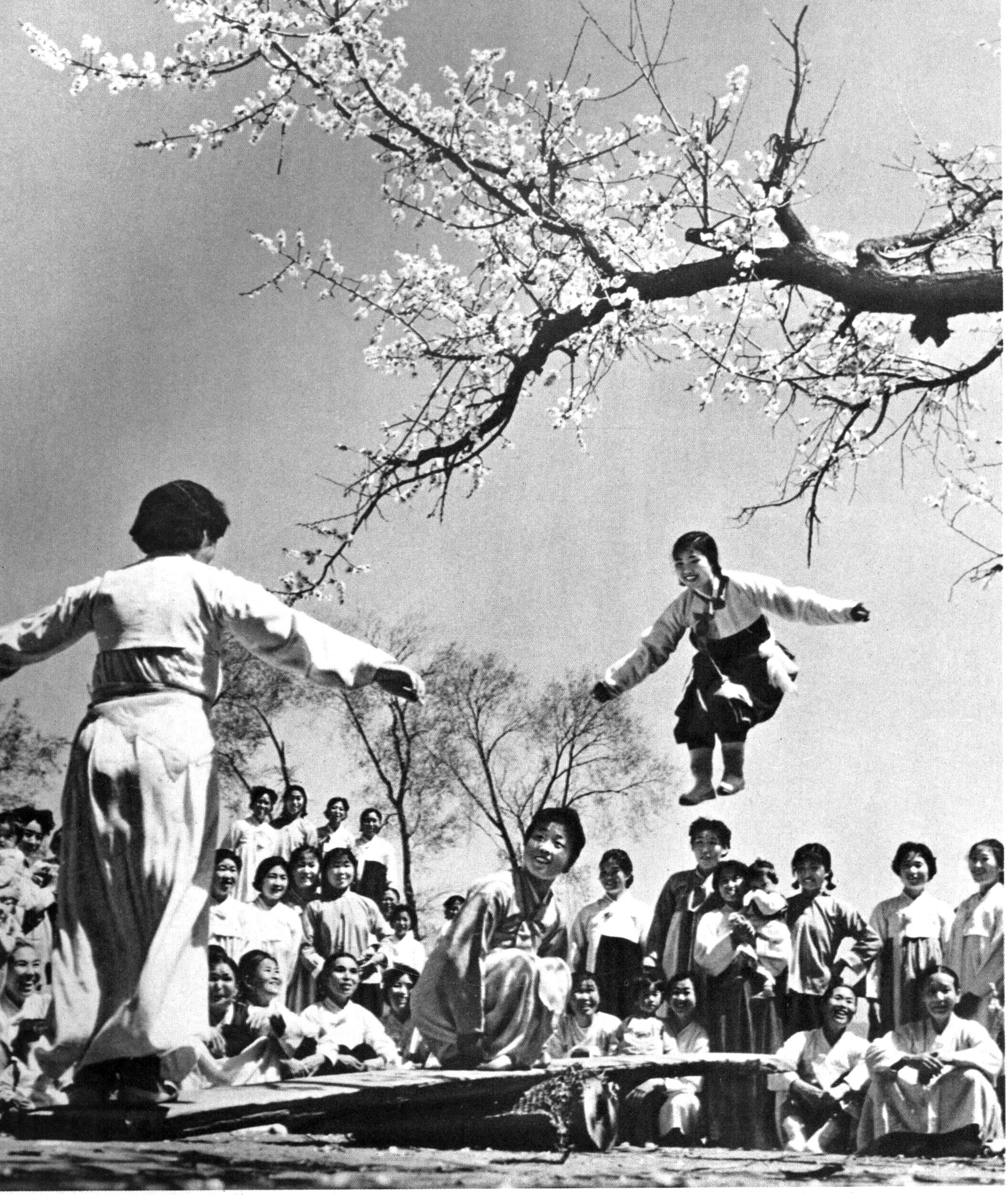
Volleyball game between armymen and civilians by a coconut grove on Hainan Island.

While on a march.

A beach scene at Tsingtao, Shantung Province. People like to swim in natural waters — in rivers, lakes and seas.

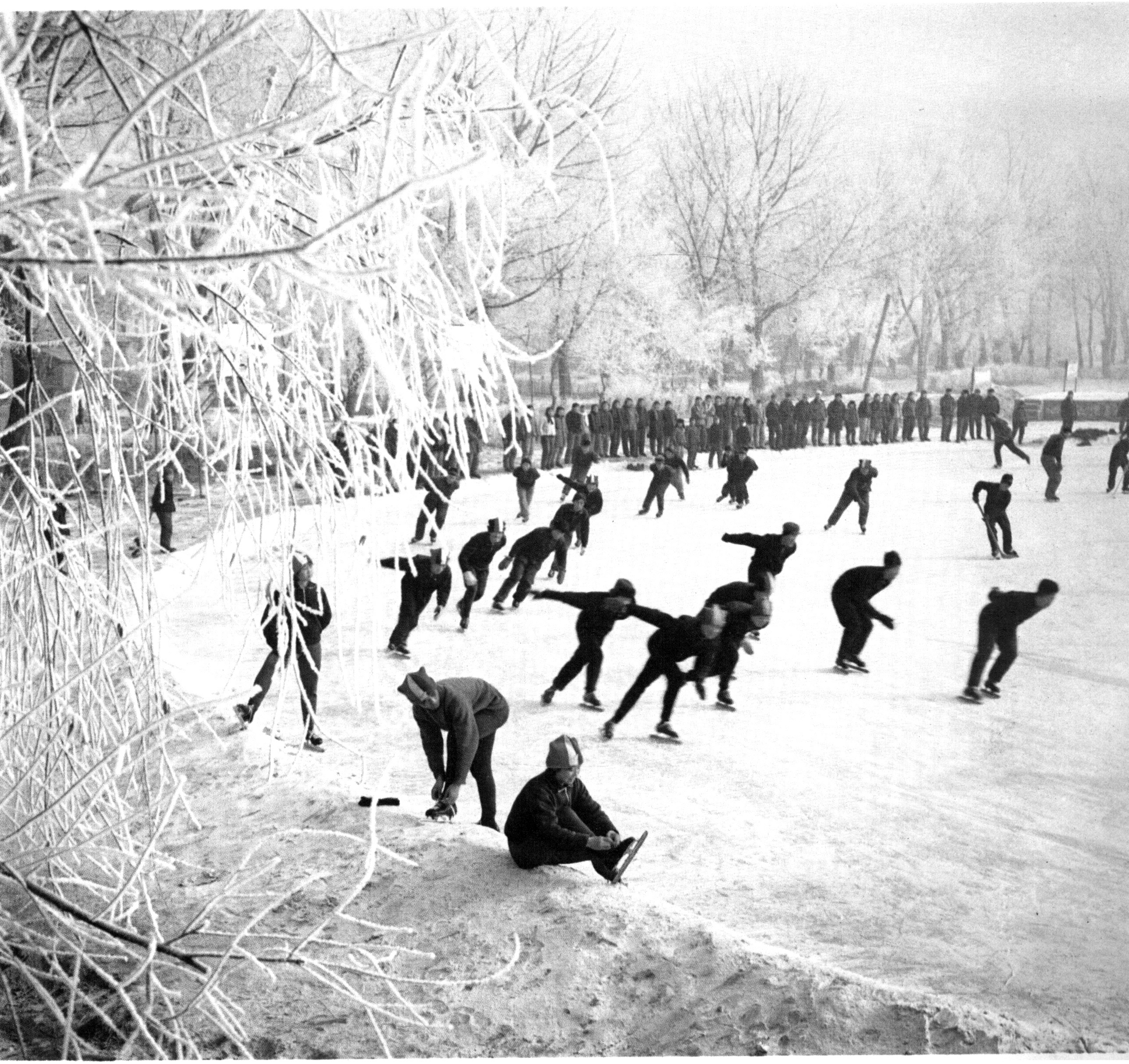
Huangshan Mountain, scenic haunt of mountain climbing enthusiasts in Anhwei Province.

Horse race on the Tibetan plateau. People go in for traditional sports in the various areas of brother nationalities.

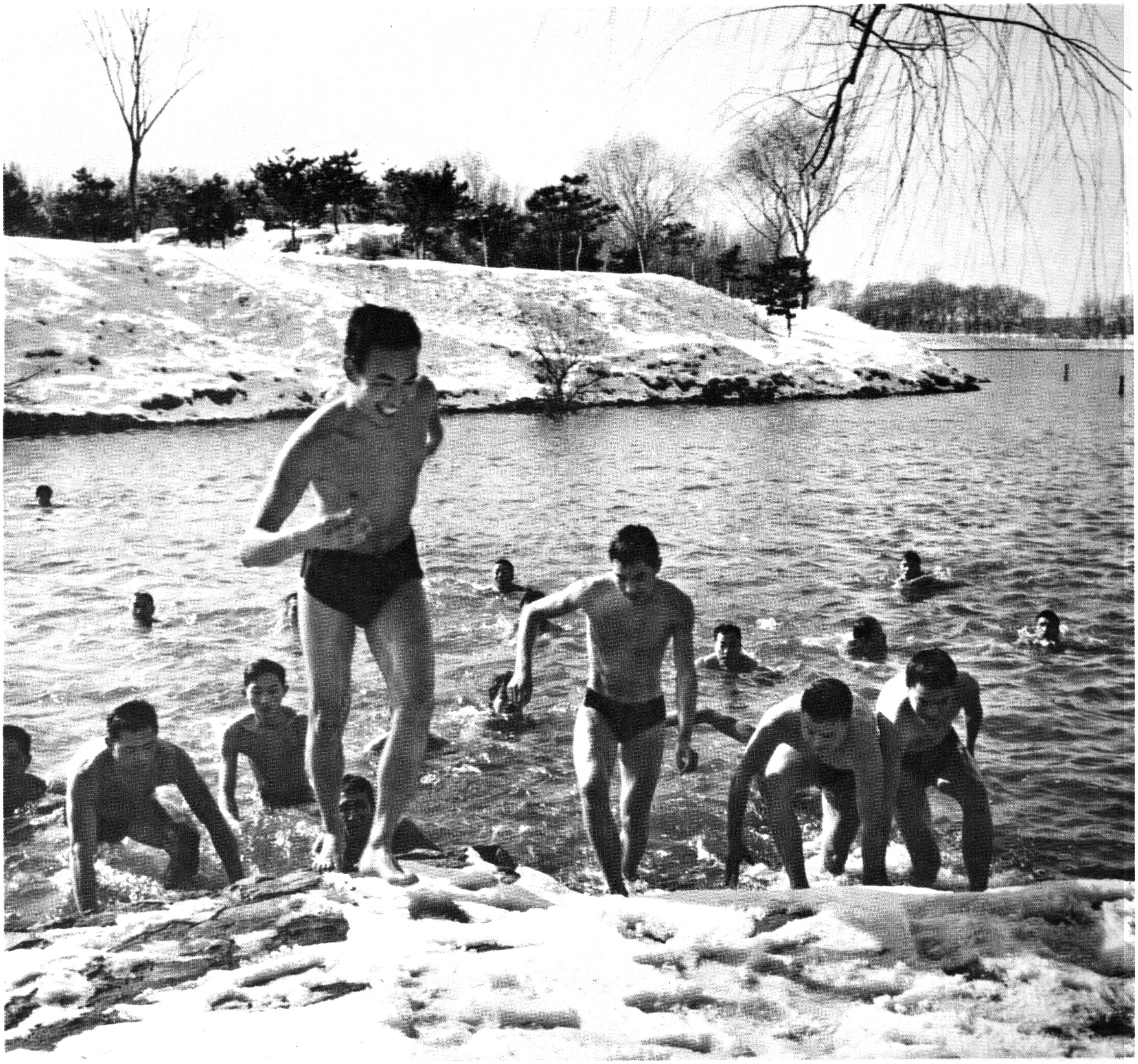


Springboard — a favourite sport of Korean nationality women at Yenpien in Kirin Province.

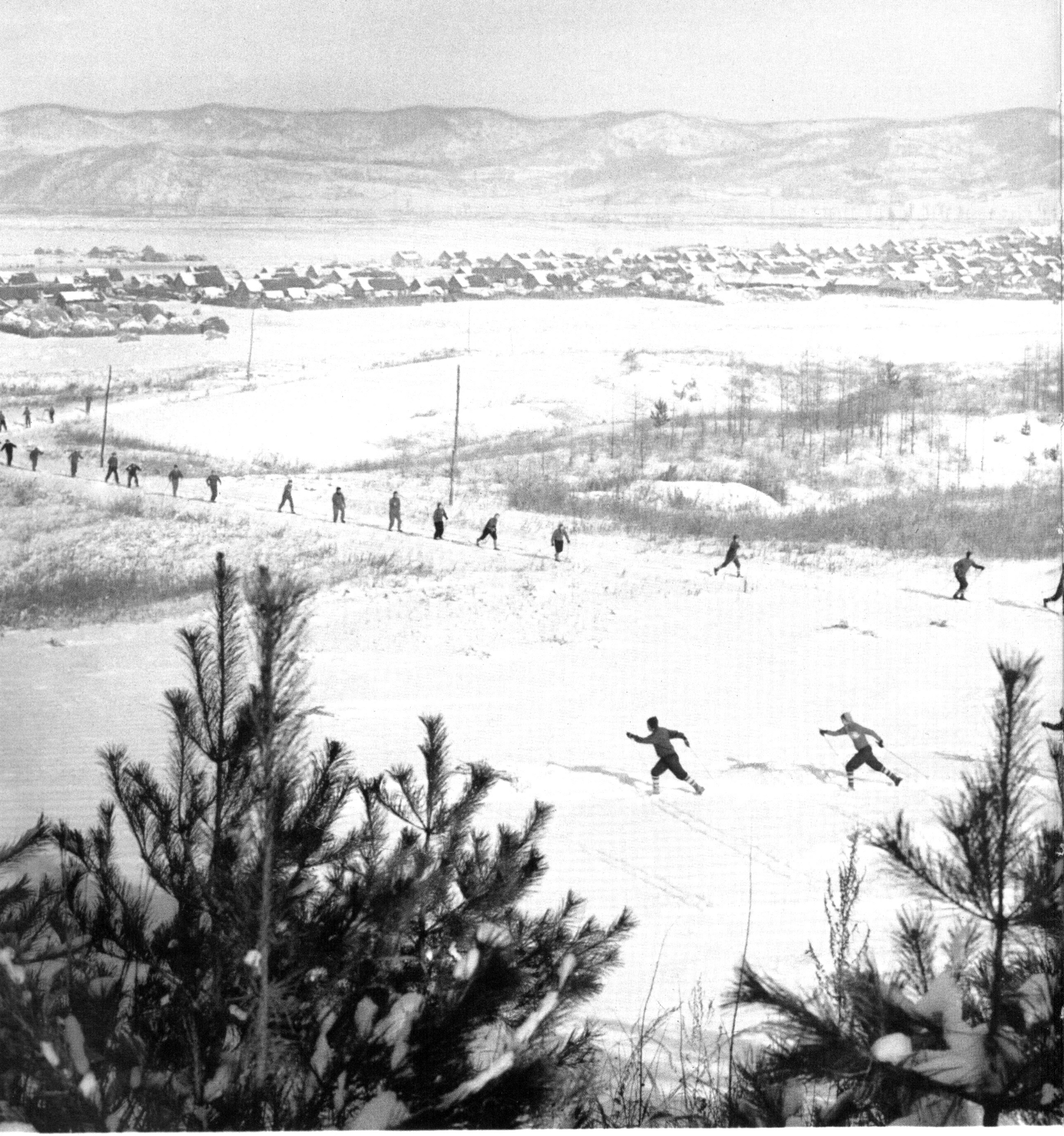
Skating enthusiasts.

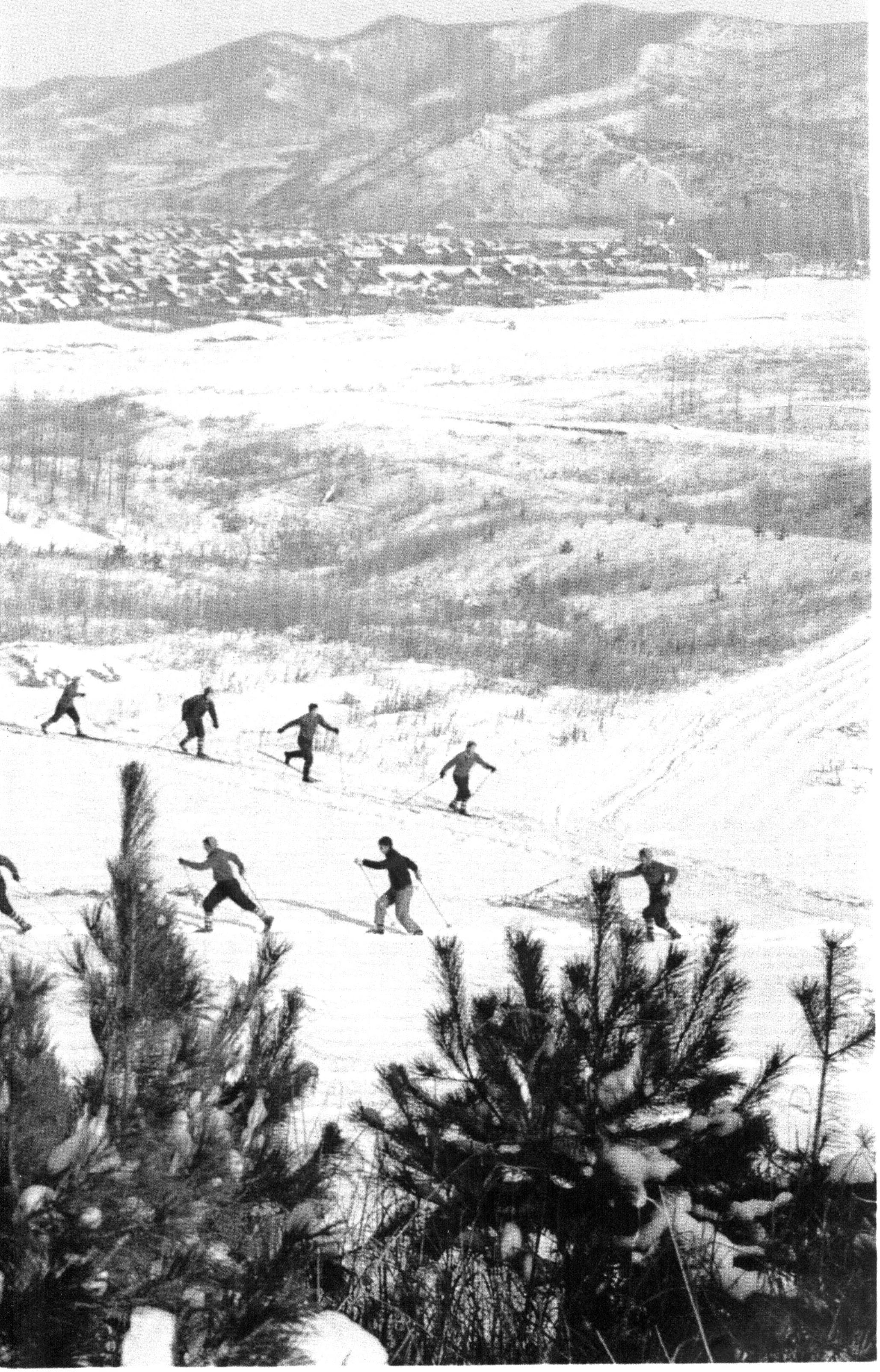


Ice hockey players on their way to a match.



In south China many people swim throughout the winter, and even in the north there are those who persist in it. These hardy ones are coming out of the near-freezing water of "August 1st" Lake, Peking.



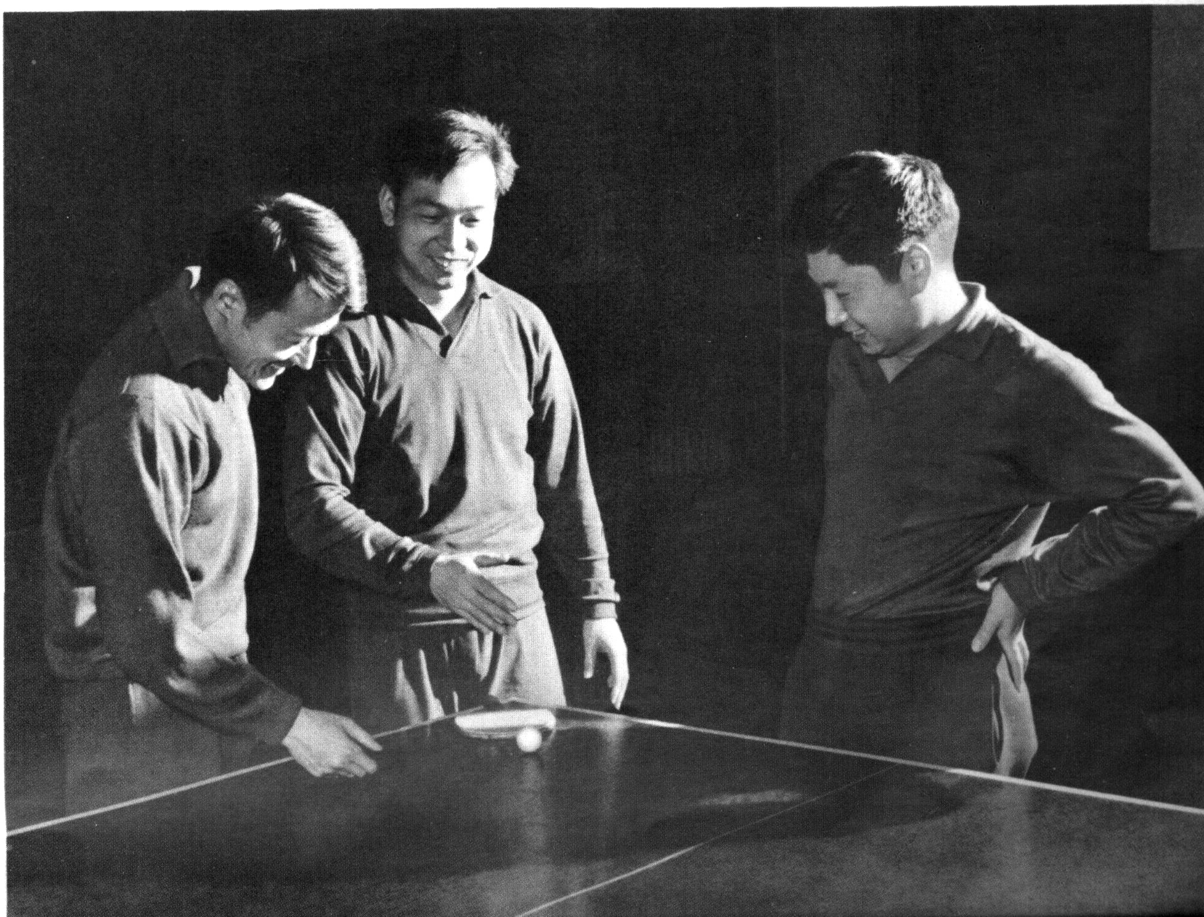


North China scene.

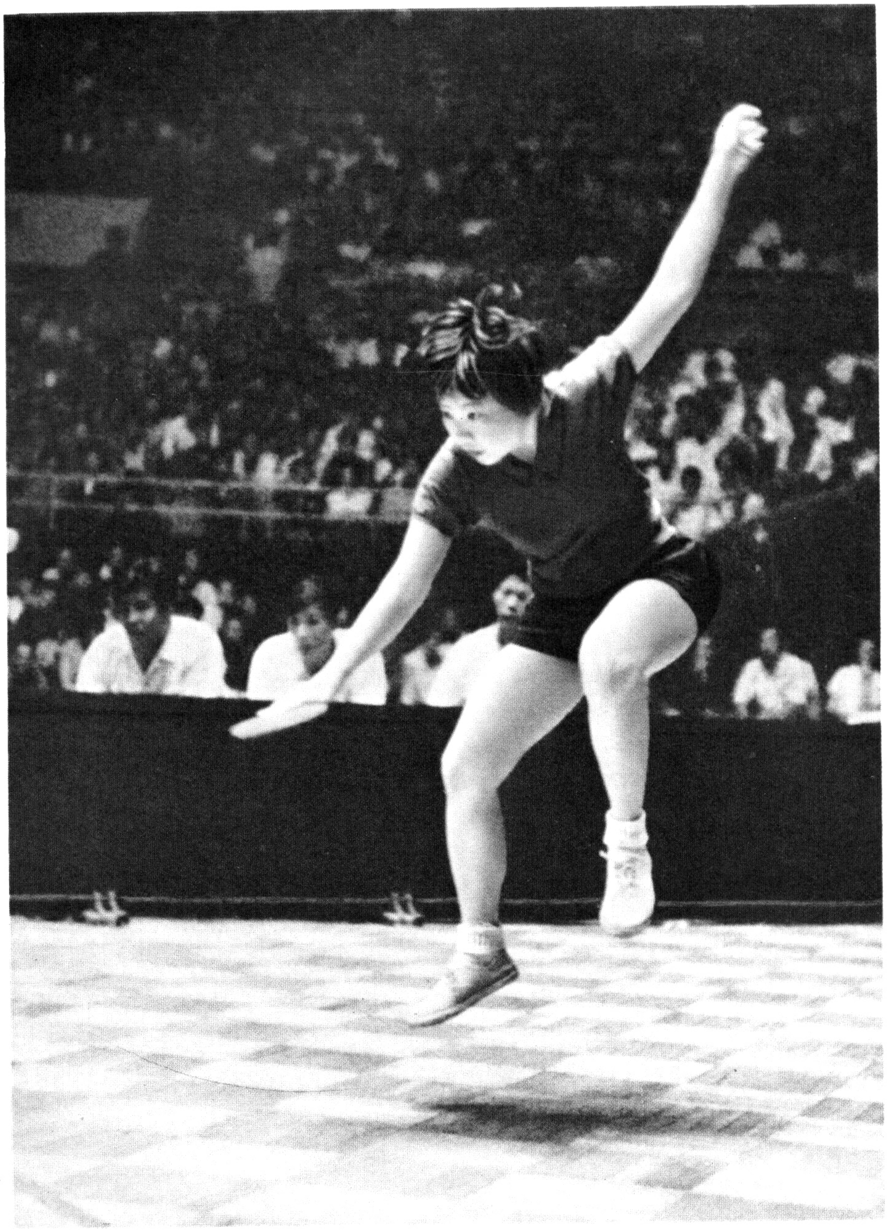
Chinese sportsmen and sportswomen conscientiously study Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and steadily raise their political understanding.

Chuang Tse-tung, men's singles table tennis world champion on three occasions, coaches young players.

Chiu Chung-hui, women's singles champion at the 26th World Table Tennis Championships, with young table tennis enthusiasts.



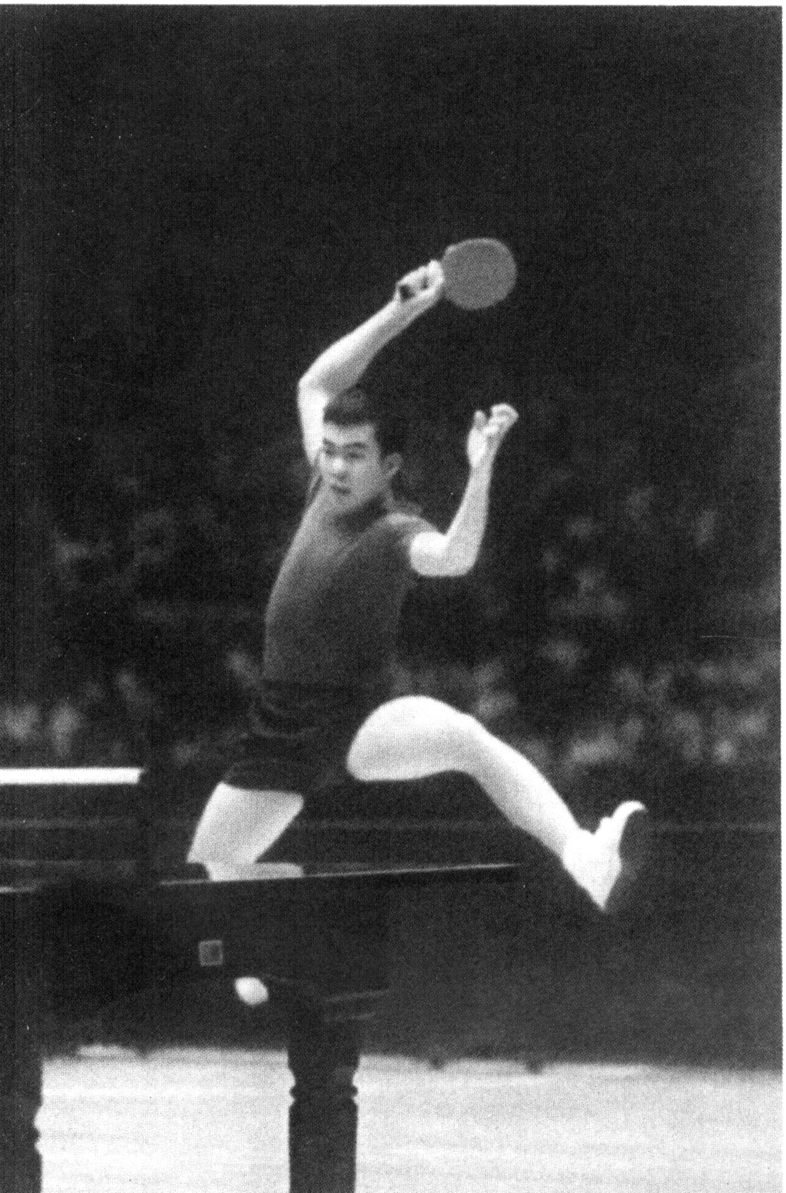
Hsu Yin-sheng (*right*), Li Fu-jung (*left*) and Chang Hsieh-lin, who have done well in international table tennis games, compare notes on technique.

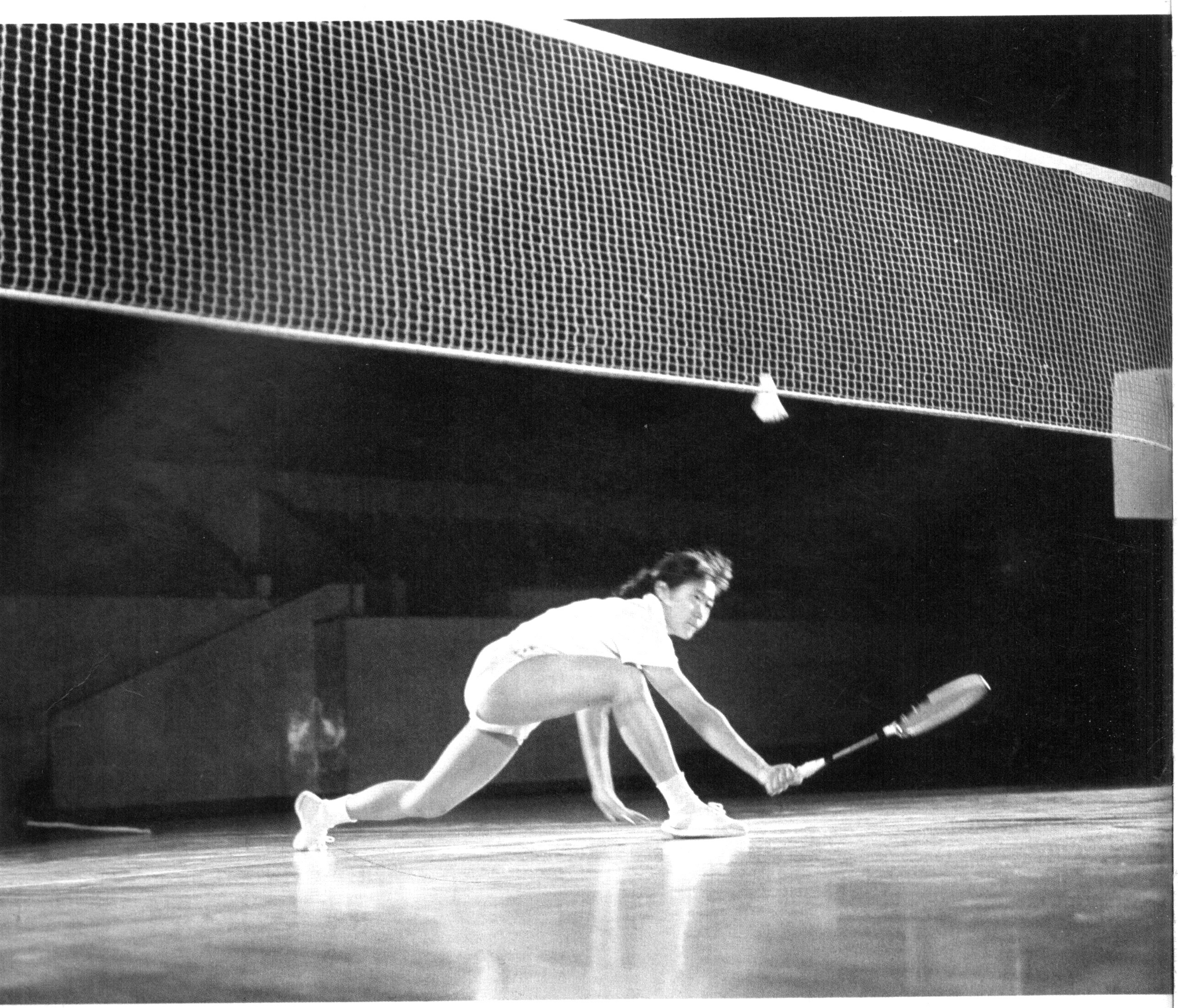


Lin Hui-ching, women's singles champion at the 31st World Table Tennis Championships.

Cheng Huai-ying, women's singles champion at the Afro-Asian Table Tennis Friendship Invitation Tournament, November 1971, in Peking.

Table tennis player Liang Ko-liang.





Chen Yu-niang, national women's badminton singles champion, 1972.

Badminton player
Tang Hsien-hu.

Tennis player
Hsu Mei-lin.

一九七三年
全国五项球类运动会

On to the offensive.

篮球运动会(
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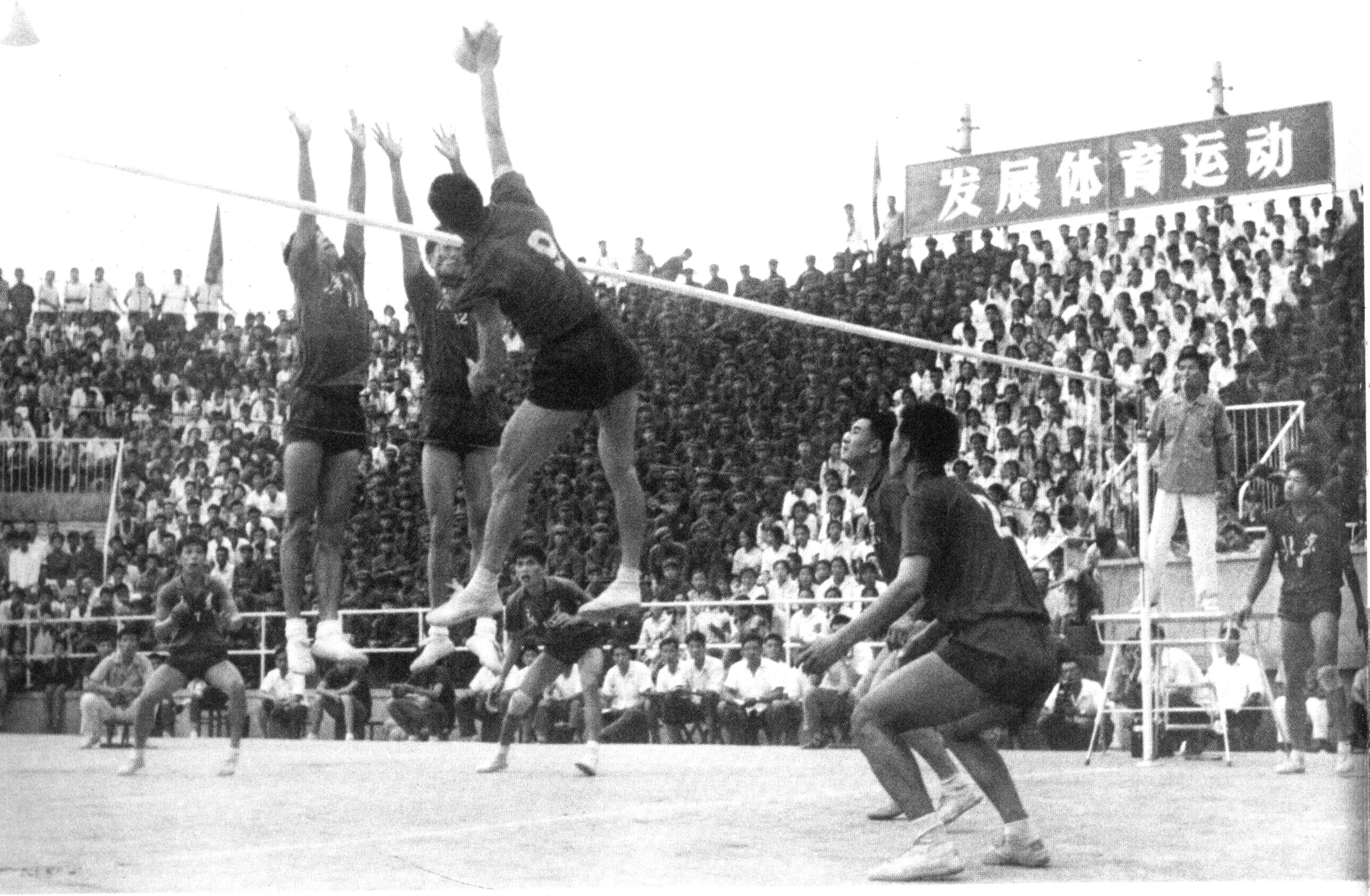
Preventing
a successful
jump shot.

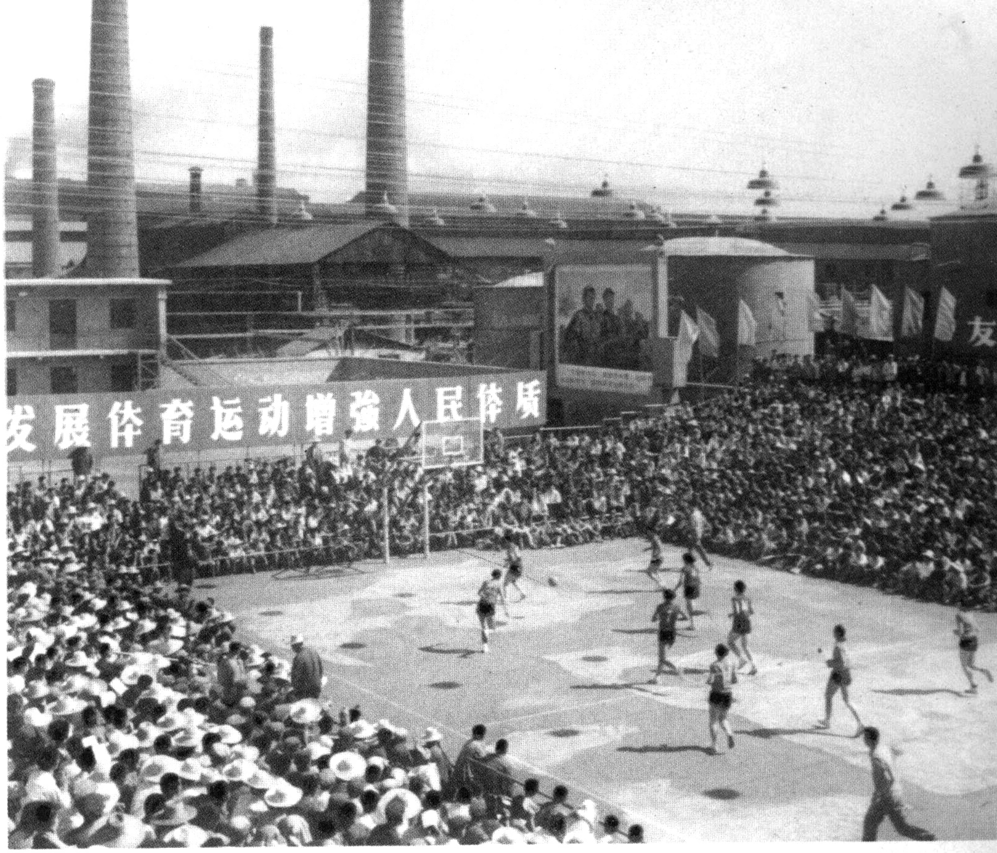


Tense moment over the net.

The veteran players coach the young.

At practice. The player with the ball is Wujenpiliko, of Mongolian nationality.

Battling for the ball.

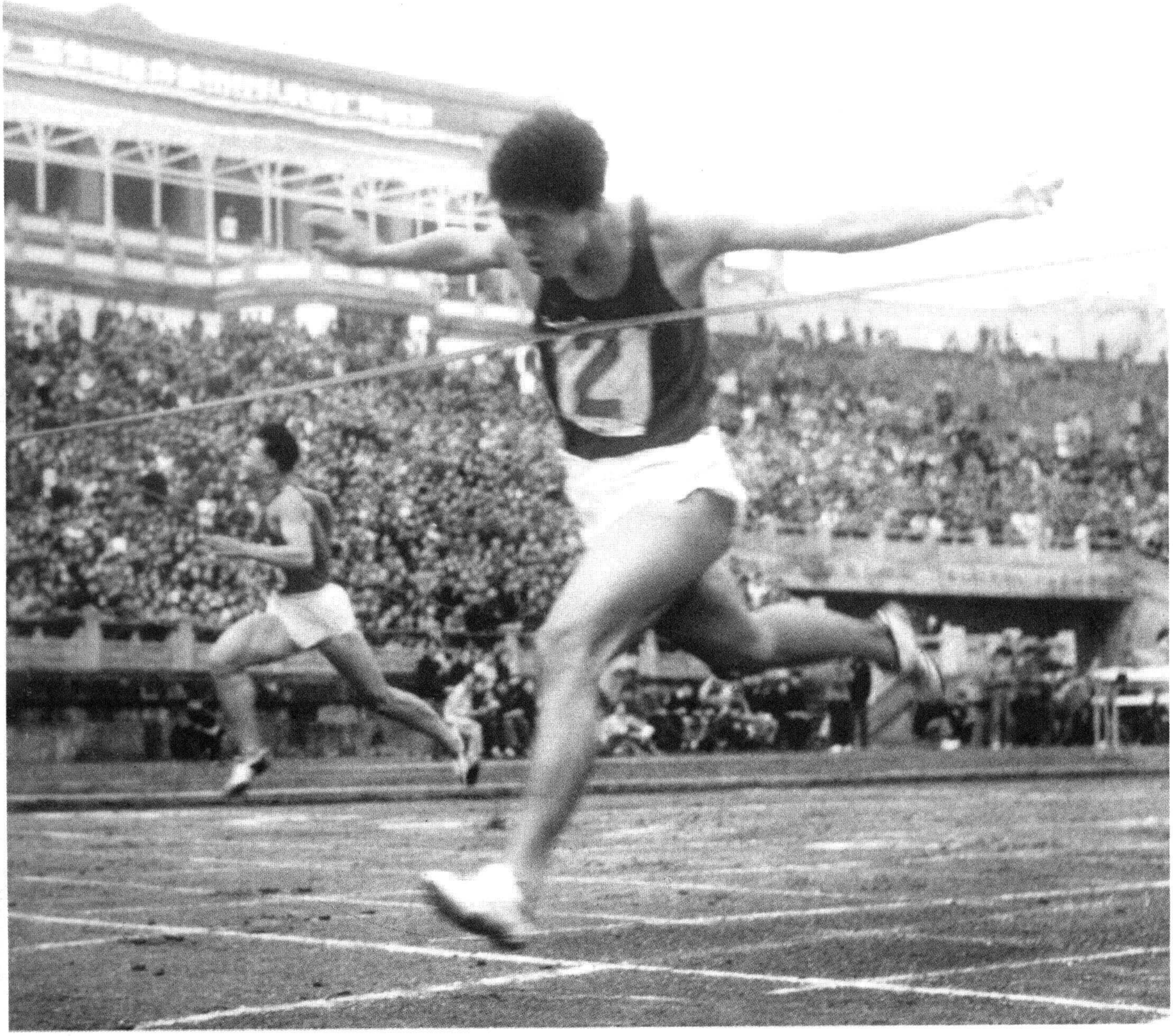


Players give exhibition matches for workers, peasants and soldiers during tournament sessions.

They also help peasants with the wheat harvest.

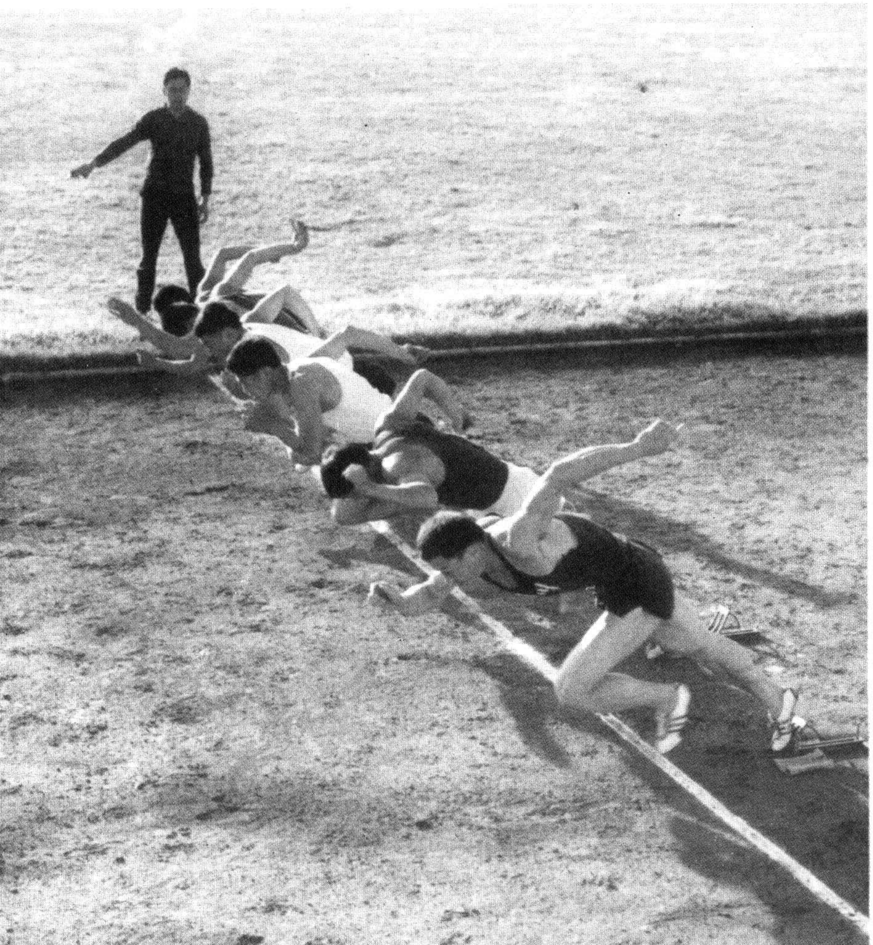
The Chinese high jumper Ni Chih-chin who cleared 2.29 metres on November 8, 1970, breaking the men's world record of 2.28 m.

China's world record breaker for the women's high jump, Cheng Feng-jung.

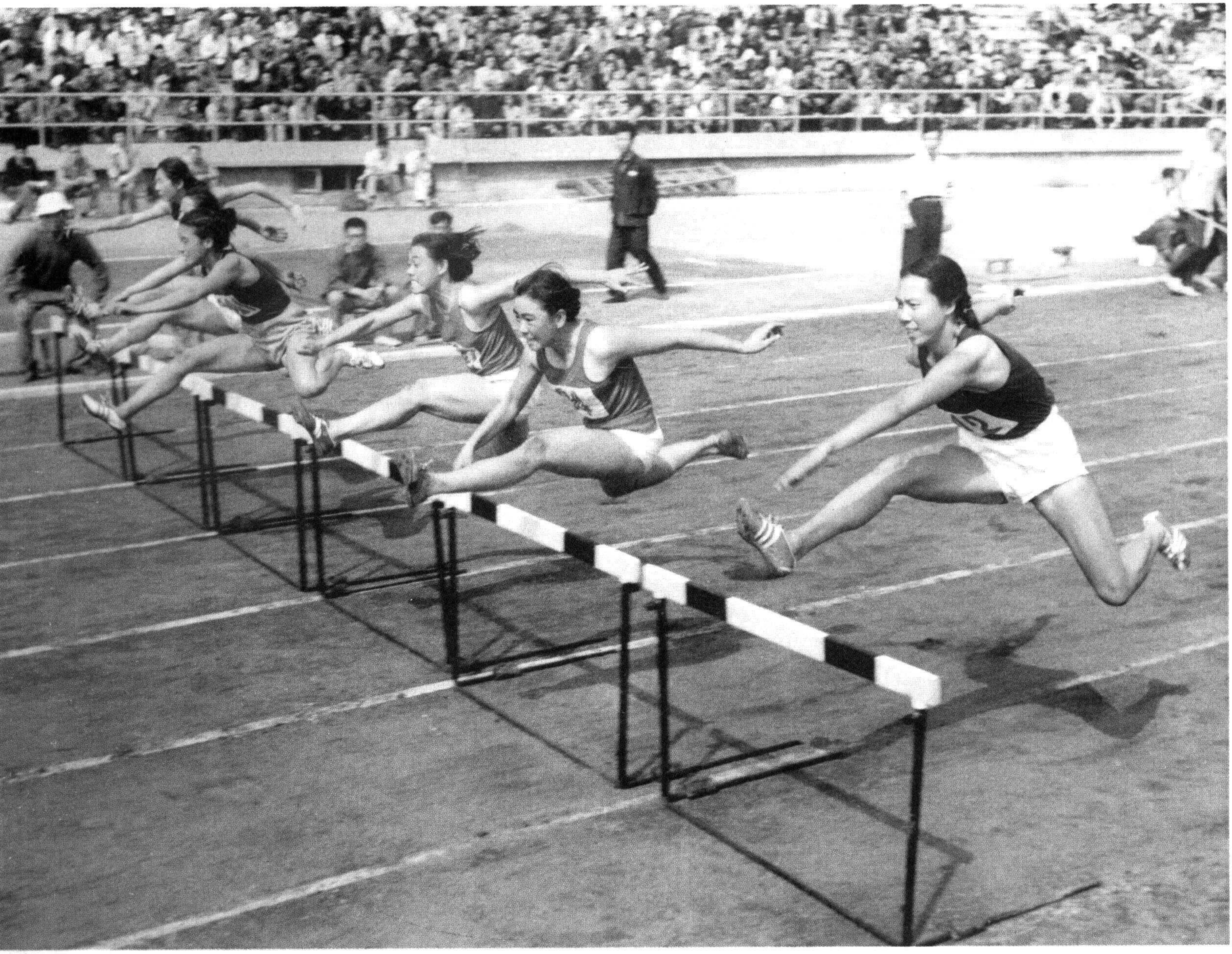


Chen Chia-chuan's result was 10 seconds for the men's 100-metre dash.

Yu Wei-li (*first right*) at practice. His 100-metre dash result was 10.1 seconds.

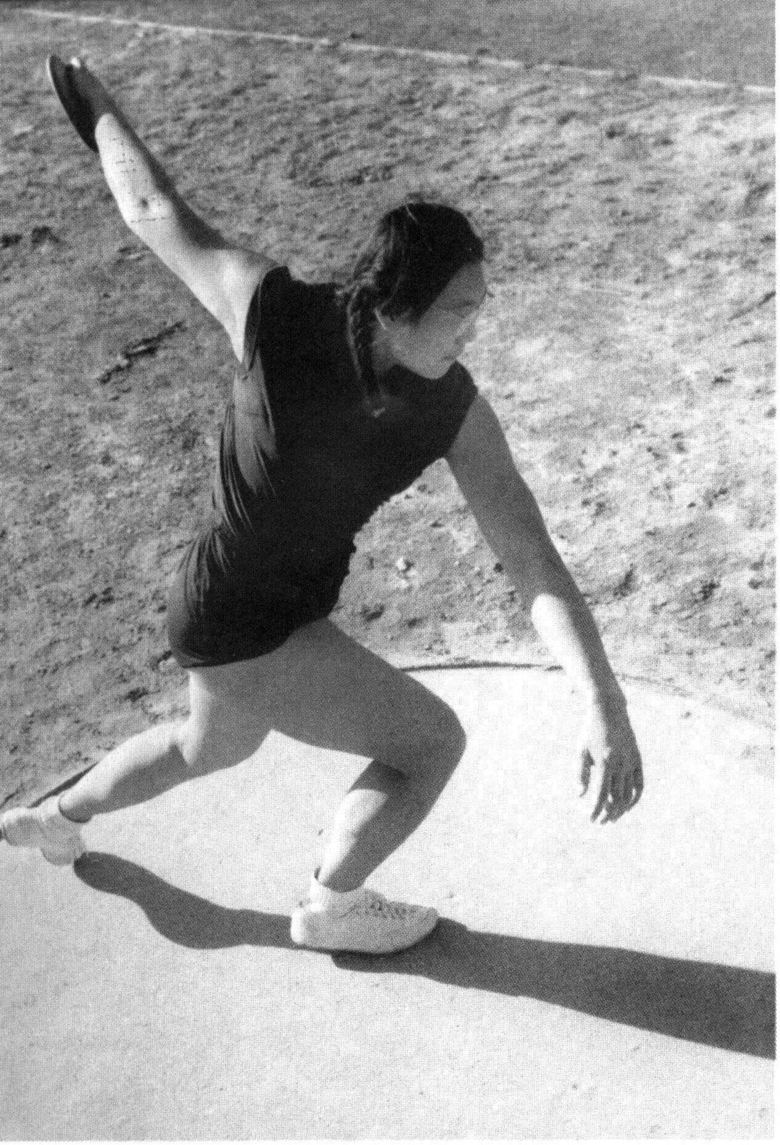


Men's 800-metre race.

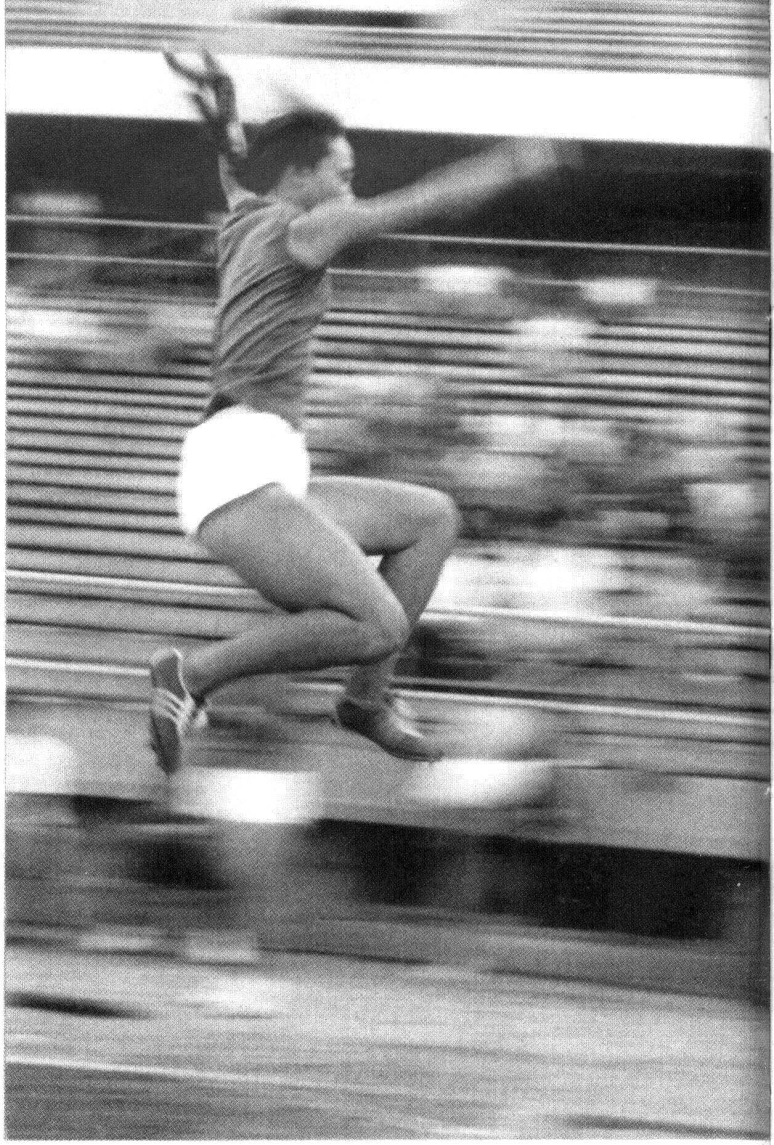


Keen competition in women's hurdles.

Relay race.

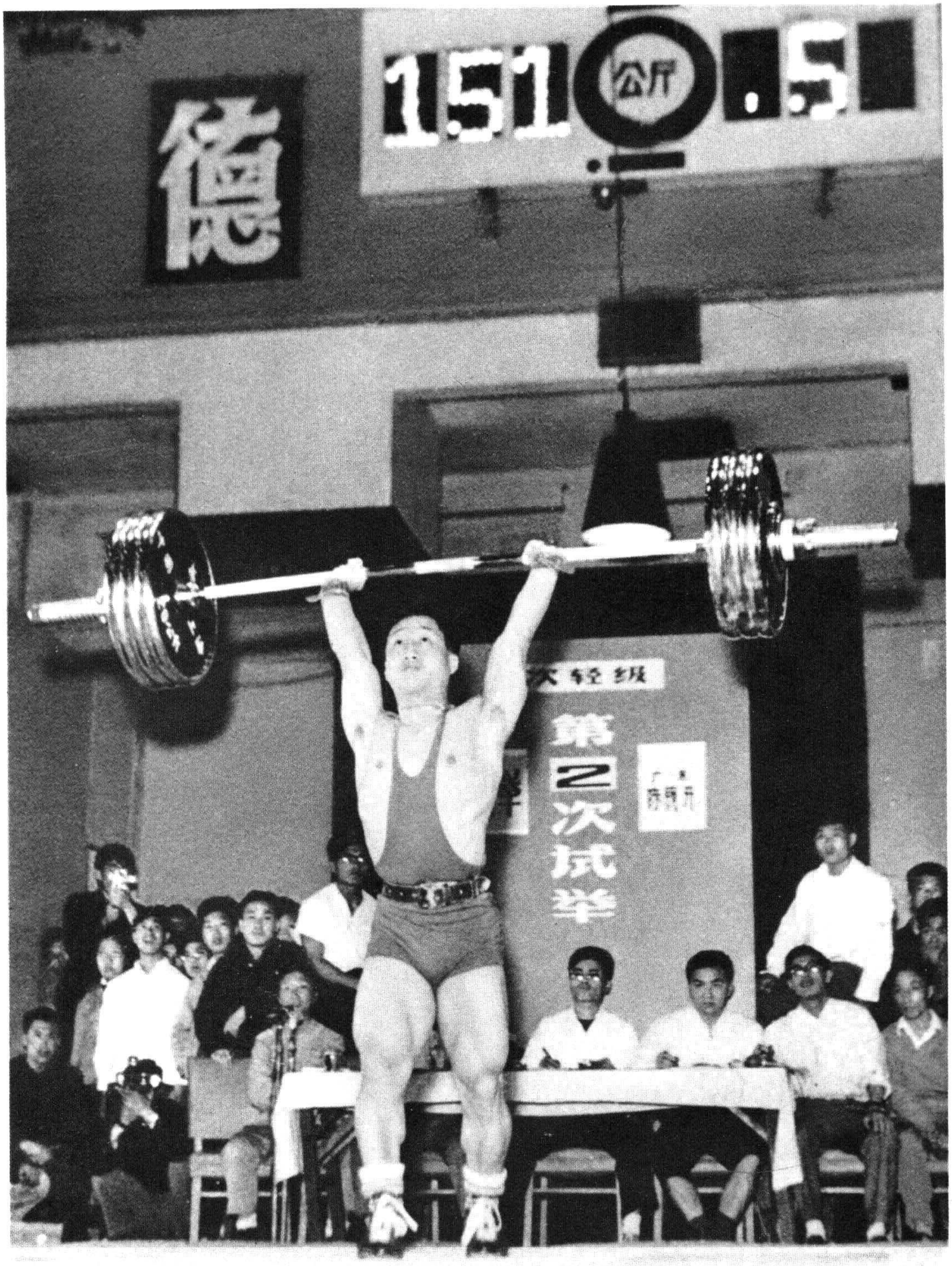


Woman discus thrower Kao Yu-kuei.



Hsiao Chieh-ping, national 6.44-metre record holder in the women's broad jump.

Weight-lifter Chen Ching-kai set world records for clean and jerk on nine occasions.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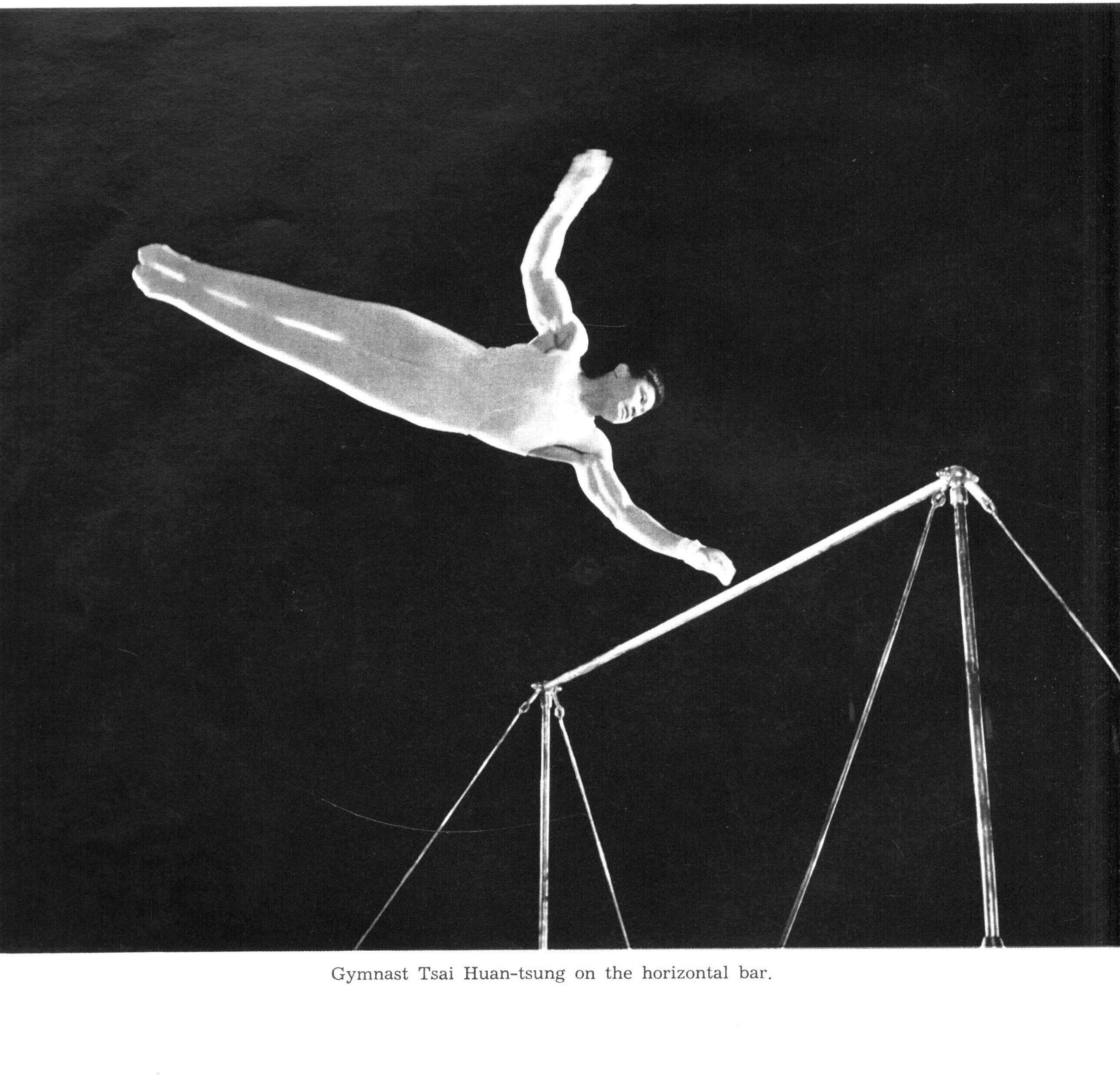
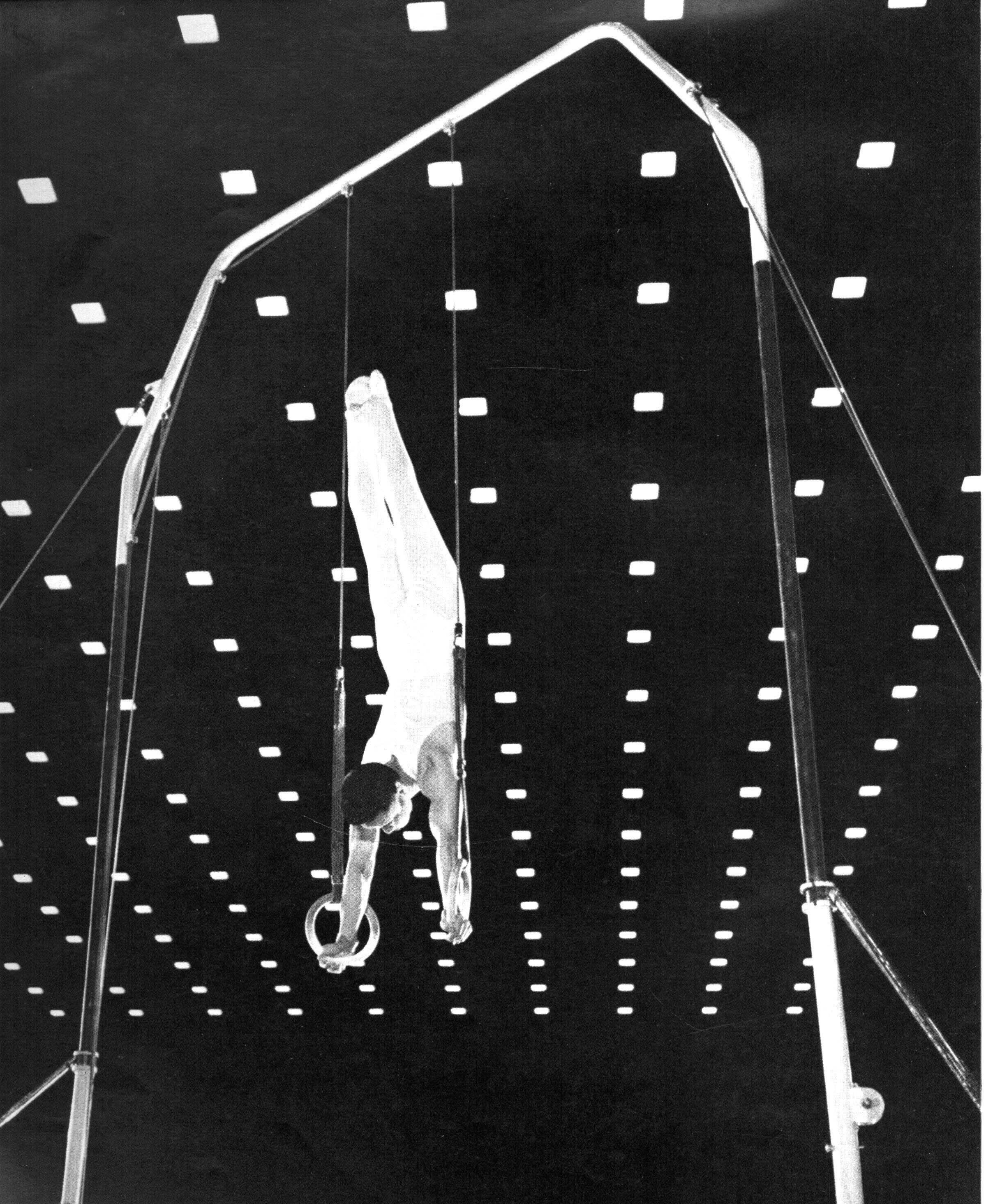


Gymnast Tsai Huan-tsung on the horizontal bar.

Wang Wei-chien in women's free exercise.

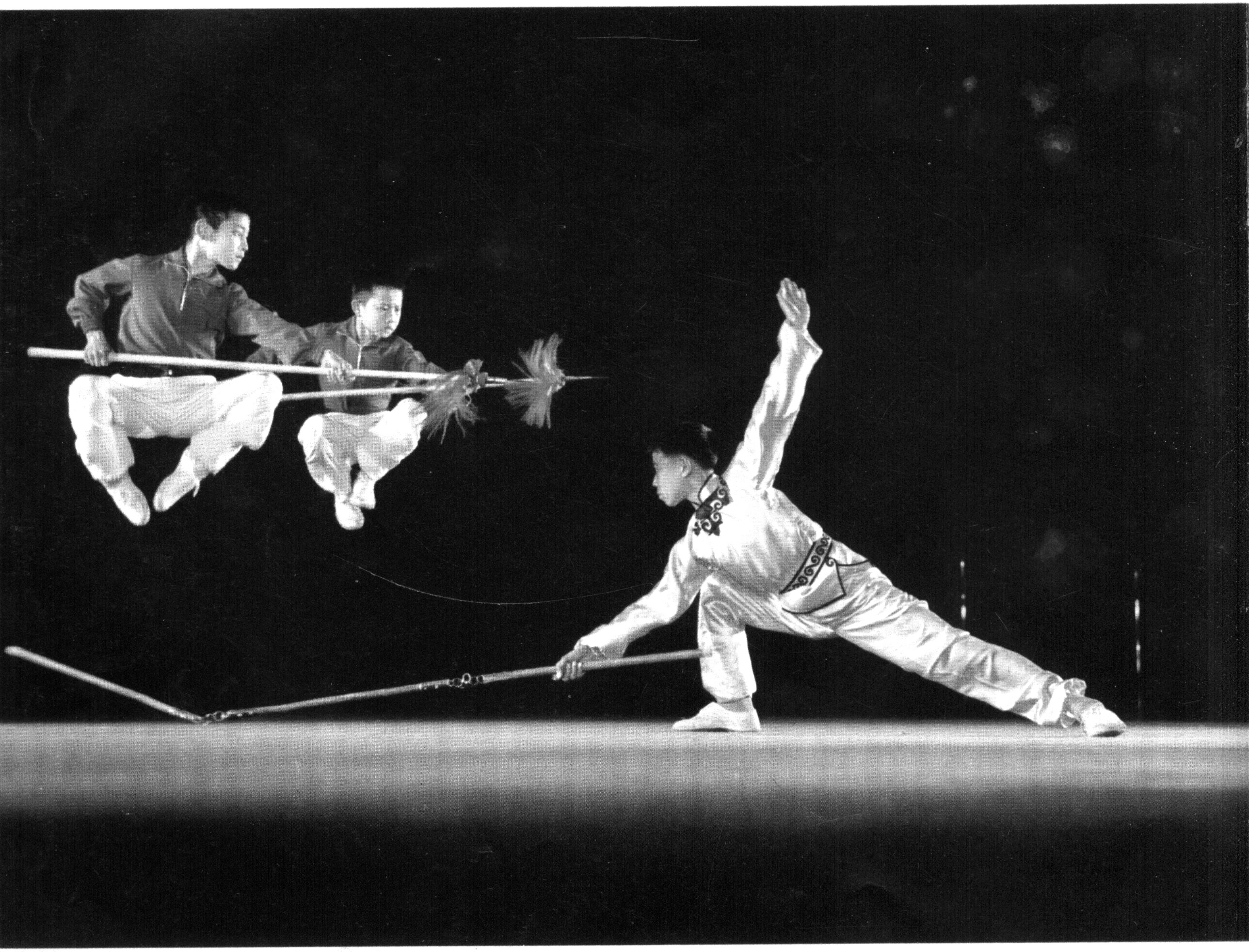


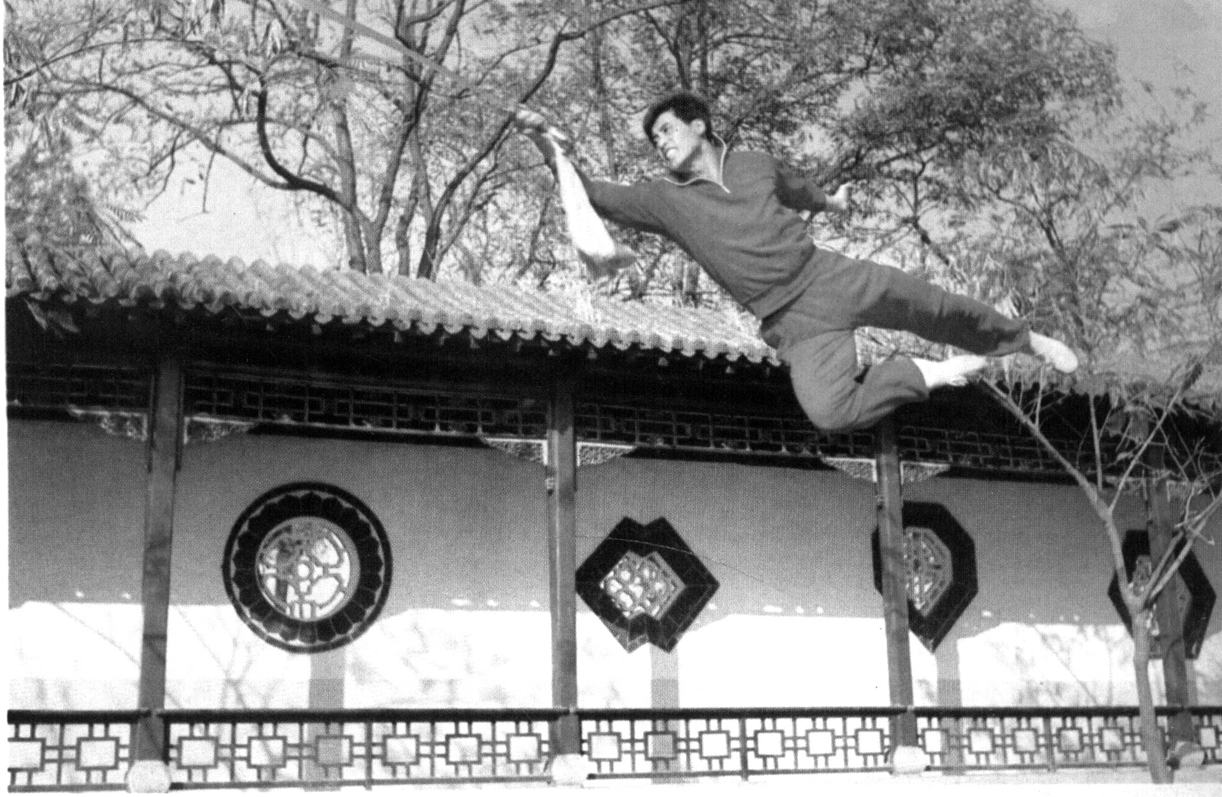
Ning Hsiao-lin flips off the balance beam.

Acrobatic exercise.

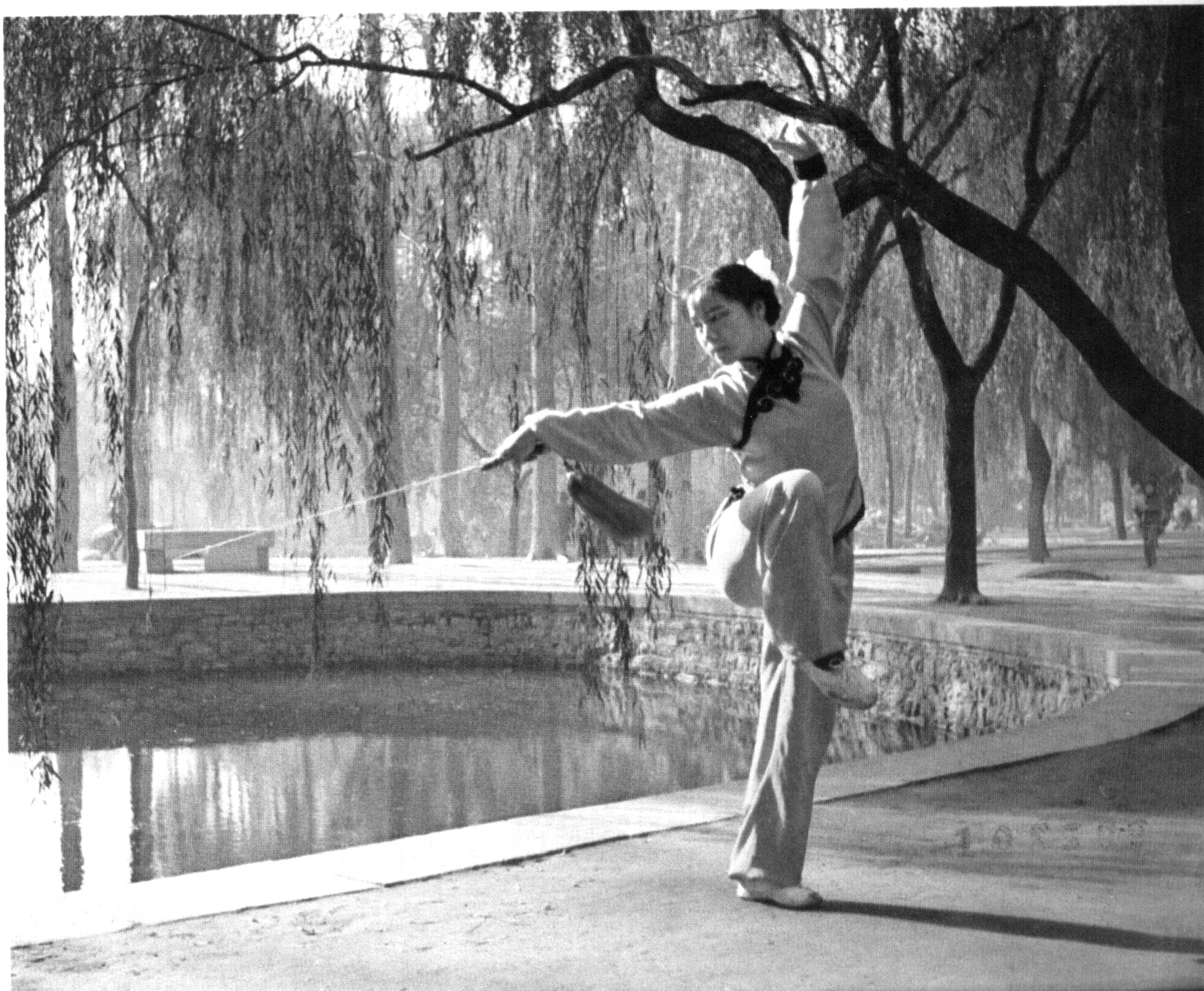
Youngsters practising *wu shu,* a composite Chinese combative sport including boxing and fencing with various weapons, which has been critically studied and developed since the founding of the new China.

Three-segment cudgel vs. two spears.

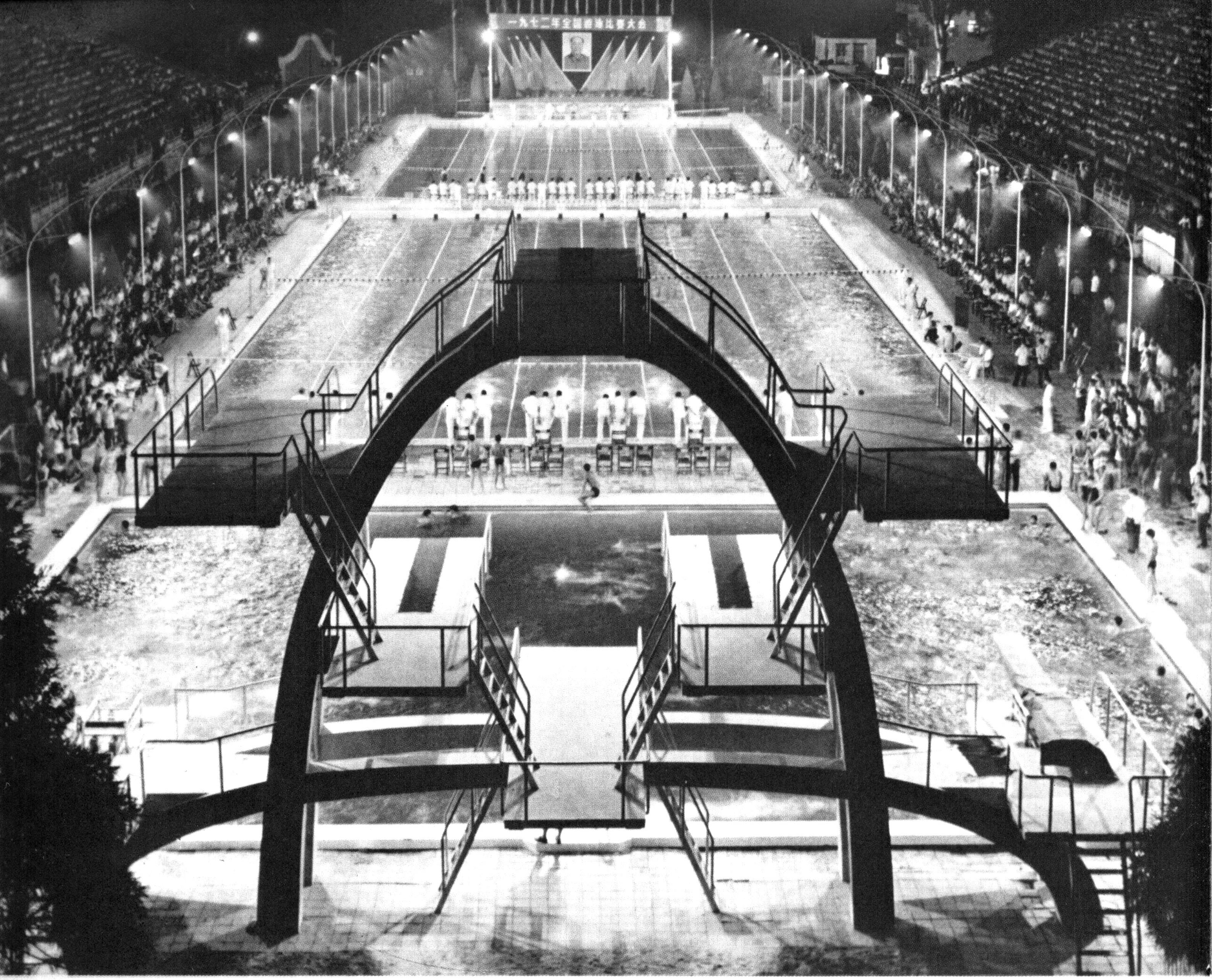




Broadsword.

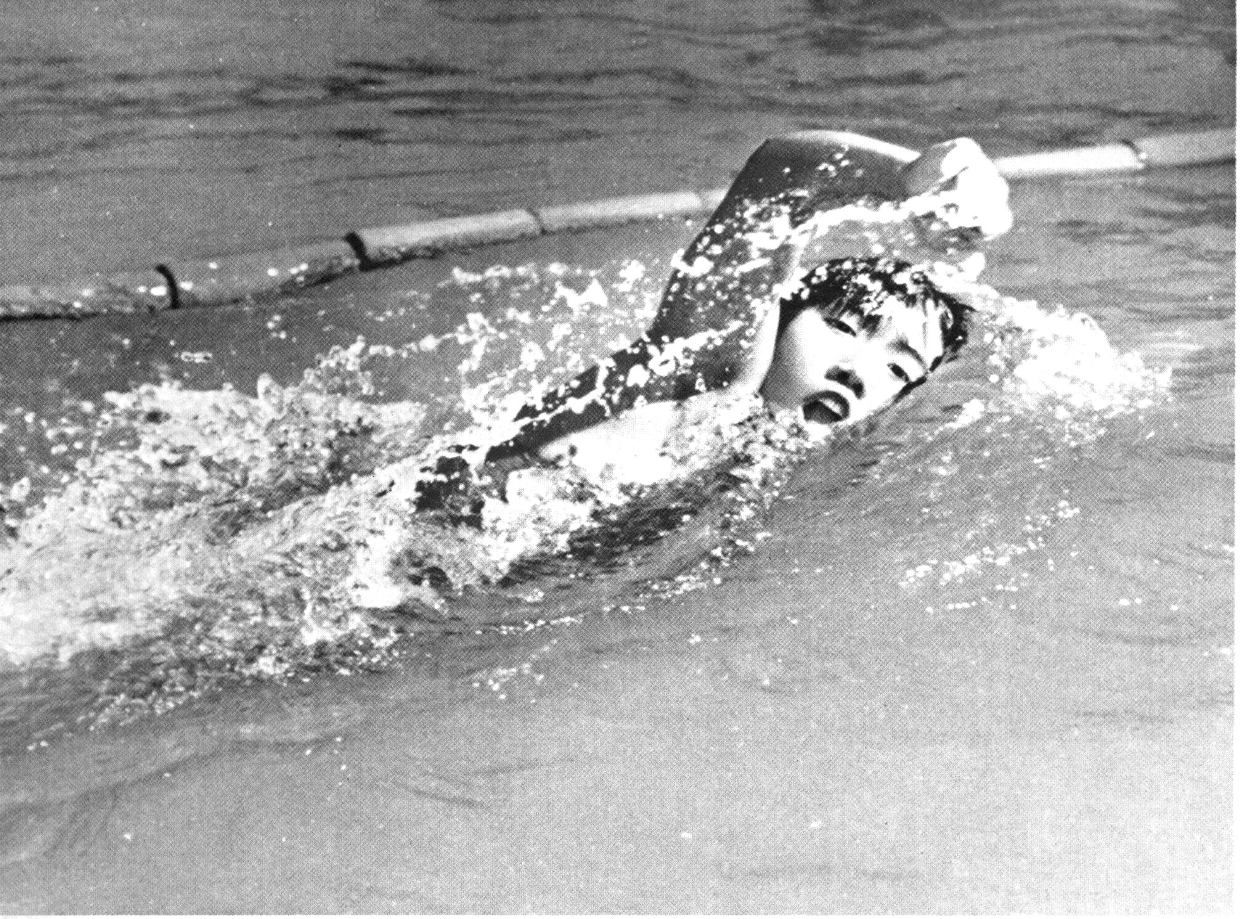


Sword.

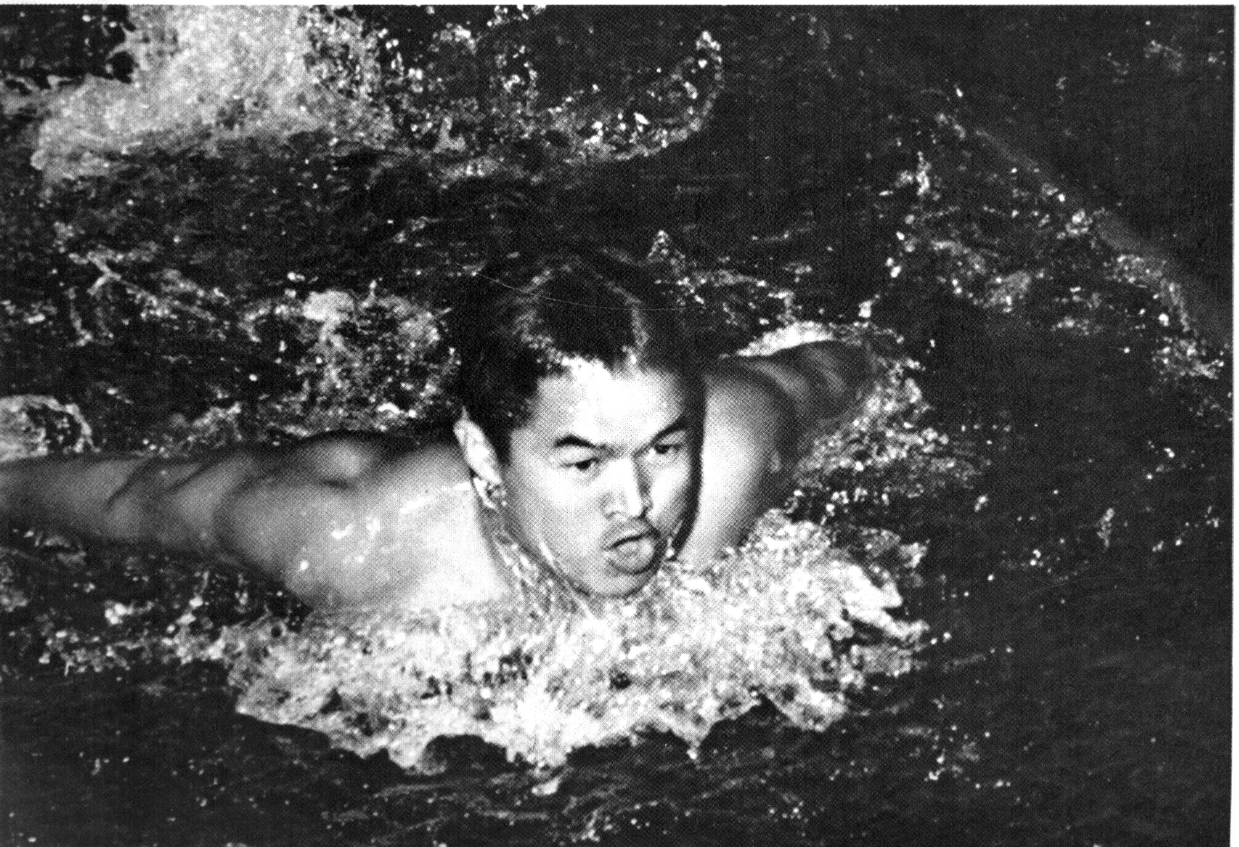


Swimming pools at Yuehhsiu Hill, Canton.

An exhibition of simultaneous diving.



Swimmer
Tseng Kuei-ying.

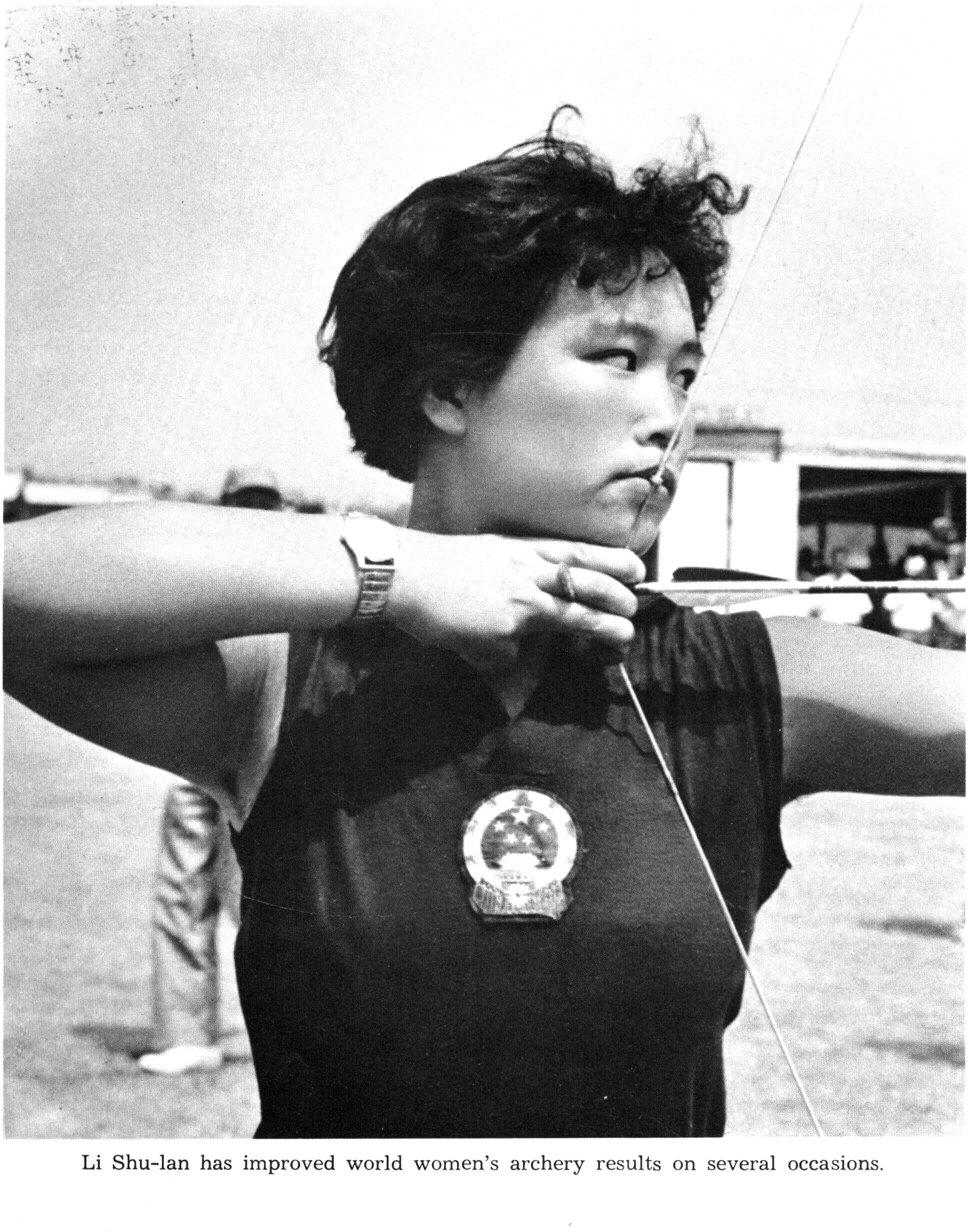


Liang Kuei-liang.

Yeh Huan-jung.

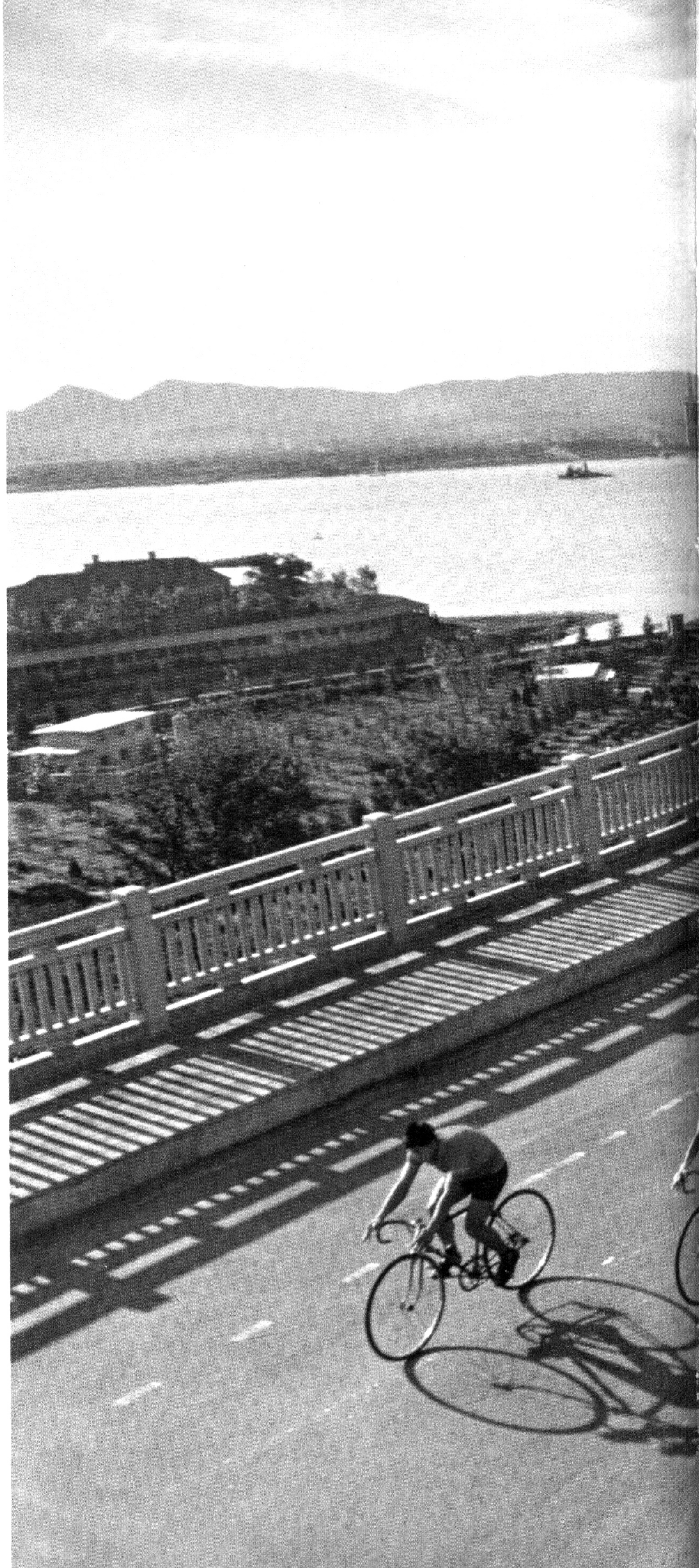
Chi Lieh-yun (*first right*), national swimming coach who has set a world record in the men's breaststroke event, teaching young swimmers.

Water polo.



Li Shu-lan has improved world women's archery results on several occasions.

Rowing regatta.



Bicycle race across the Yangtze River Bridge at Nanking.

Motor-cycle race.

Parachute precision jumping. China's parachutists have improved on world records in group performance.

Speed-boat race.

Sailing.

Chinese mountaineers succeeded on May 25, 1960, in reaching the world's highest peak, the 8,882-metre Jolmo Lungma in the Himalayas, from the northern slope. Here the mountaineers ascend a precipice — the only access to the peak.

On the way to the Jolmo Lungma — crossing a snow-covered rocky slope 8,000 metres above sea level.

On May 2, 1964, Chinese mountaineers conquered the 8,012-metre Mount Shisha Pangma, leaving man's footprint on the peak for the first time.

伟大领袖毛主
指导我们思想的理论基础是马克思列宁主义。
第一届亚洲乒乓球锦标赛
1st ASIAN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
PREMIERS CHAMPIONNATS D'ASIE DE TENNIS DE TABLE
البطولة الآسيوية لكرة الطاولة
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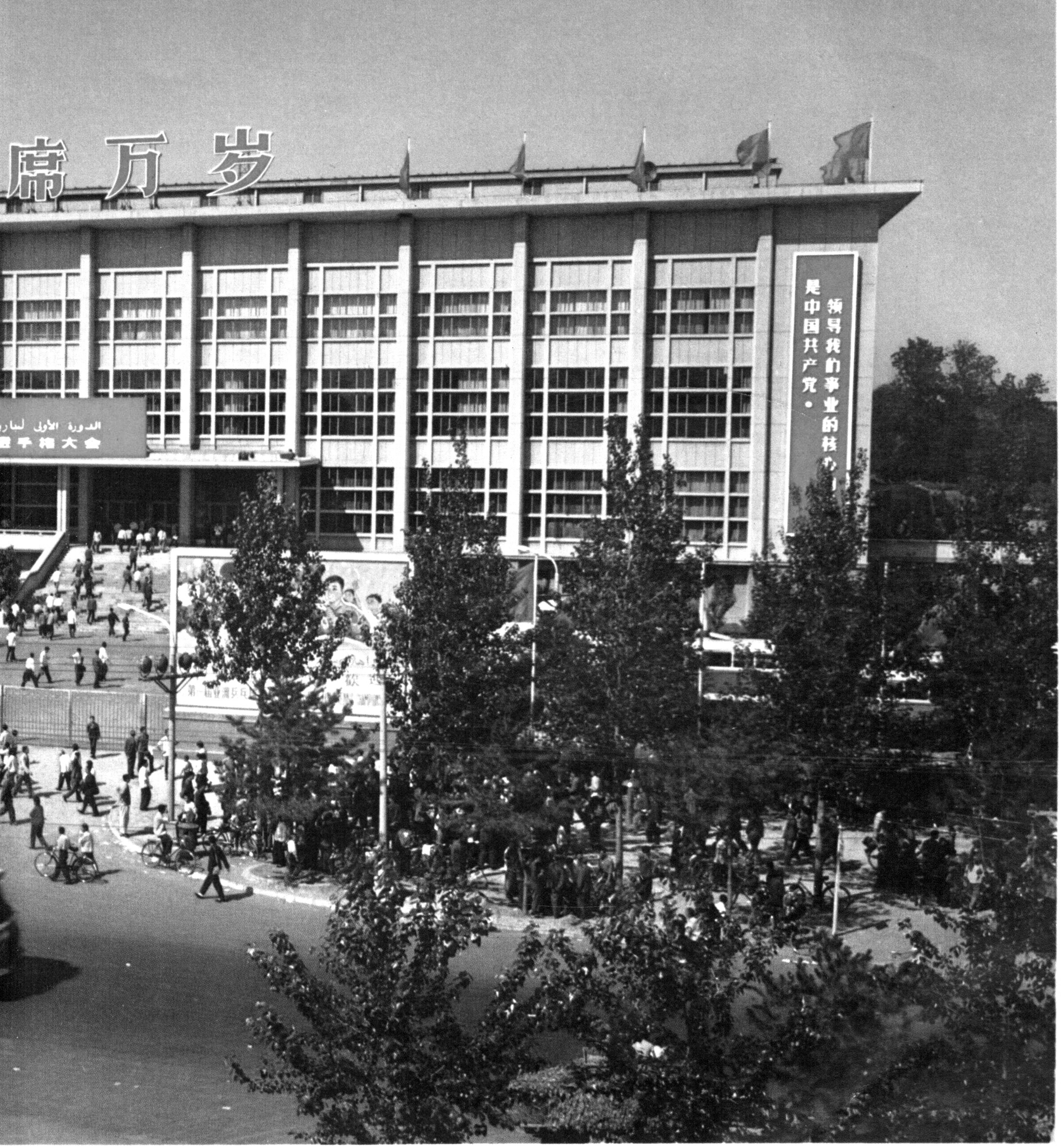
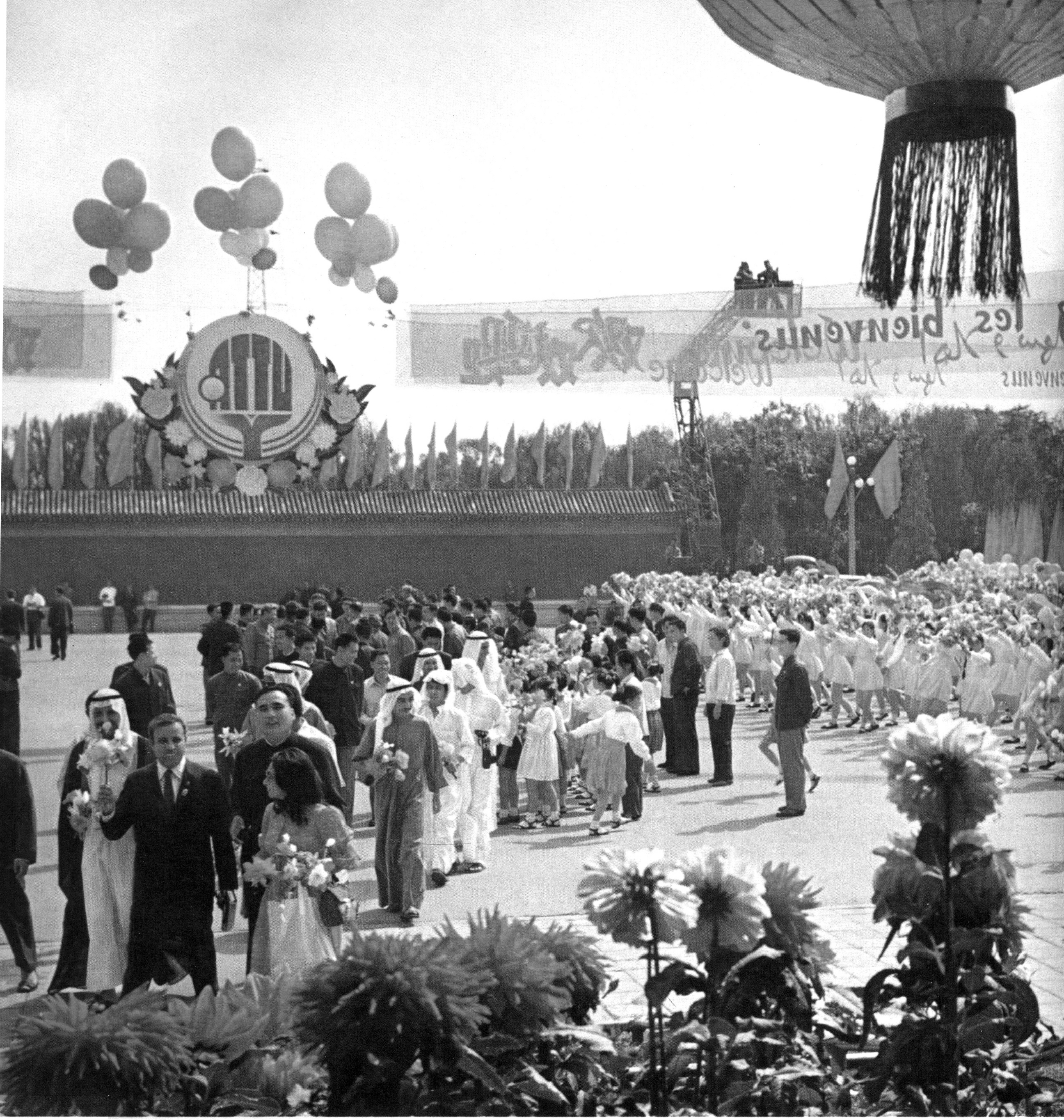


Peking's Capital Stadium, built during the Cultural Revolution, is China's first to have an indoor ice skating rink. Its competition space is 120 by 99 metres, with seats for 18,000 spectators. Twenty-four table tennis competitions can be held at the same time.

The Peking Workers Stadium, China's largest sports complex, occupies a total area of 350,000 square metres, with buildings totalling 80,000 square metres of floor space. The central sports ground, which has tiered seats for 80,000 spectators, is enclosed by an oval four-storey structure. There are also indoor and outdoor swimming pools, and various ball courts.



Through sports interchanges, the Chinese people have promoted friendship with the people of the world. The picture, taken at Peking's scenic Summer Palace during the 1st Asian Table Tennis Championships, shows the welcome accorded friends from various countries and regions.

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